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Palestinian Affairs

Controversy Over Participation in Peace Talks Reported

Delegation Head on Deportee Issue

JN0804204893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said the Palestinian delegation will not take part in the next round of negotiations unless the deportee problem is resolved.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi made statements to our political affairs correspondent, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, what are the recent developments in the issue of Palestinian participation in the ninth round?

['Abd-al-Shafi] So far, nothing has happened that would enable us to go to the negotiating table. Usamah al-Baz [head of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs] will arrive in Tunis today and he will convey the outcome of talks between President Clinton and President Mubarak.

[Dhiyab] What are your comments on [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State] Djerejian's statements that the Palestinians should first go [to the negotiations] after which the issue of deportees will be solved.

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, we cannot go on the basis of mere promises. There should be a response to our demands in terms of Israel's adherence to international legitimacy. This is a logical and legitimate demand. [end recording]

'Concrete Guarantees' Needed

TA0804133693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Apr 93 p 4

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that there is a consensus in the Palestinian leadership not to participate in the talks under the current conditions.

Al-Khatib, who returned from Tunis yesterday, stressed that despite a genuine Palestine desire to participate in the talks, one cannot continue depending on promises. He added: We heard many promises during former Secretary of State James Baker's term. We cannot keep relying on promises. We need concrete guarantees.

Al-Khatib said that during five meetings in which he participated in Tunis, he did not hear any Palestinian officials' endorsement for participation in the talks under the current conditions. Al-Khatib emphasized that it is still premature to adopt a final decision. A decision might be made at the Arab coordination meeting slated for 14 April.

Al-Khatib explained that the Palestinian side is awaiting U.S. replies to three issues: Deportation, the substance of negotiations, and Israeli behavior in the occupied territories. He said that there is a Palestinian demand for an Israeli commitment not to resort to deportation, for an Israeli negotiating stance that is more harmonious with the terms of reference of negotiations, and for an improved Israeli conduct in the occupied territories in keeping with the Geneva Convention.

The Palestinian leadership has asked Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Bashir al-Barghuthi to remain in Tunis to participate in the leadership's meetings. They may return to the occupied territories on 9 or 11 April.

'Arafat Receives UK Message

LD0804181293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received a message from the British Government in connection with the Arab-Israeli peace process in the Middle East, including the urging of the Palestinian side to attend the forthcoming round of talks.

This came when Brother President Abu-'Ammar last night received British Ambassador to Tunisia Michael Tate.

During the meeting, Brother Abu-'Ammar explained the reasons that motivated the Palestinian leadership to postpone taking a stance on the participation in the ninth round, pointing out the obstacles that Rabin's government placed in the continuation of the peace process and making it successful. These obstacles would prevent the participation of the Palestinian delegation unless they are removed.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar affirmed that these obstacles are concerned with the Israeli side's noncompliance with the peace point of reference, the letter of invitation, and the guarantees upon which the negotiating process was established, in addition to the expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland and Israel's nonadherence to the implementation of the relevant international resolutions, including Resolution 799.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar touched on the details of the daily Israeli violations of human rights, the war that the occupation forces wage against our Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip and its closure, and the partitioning of the [West] Bank into three closed regions—the north, the south, and Jerusalem—a matter that caused the situation to deteriorate and caused the agony of our people in our occupied land to increase and led to the deterioration of the economy, and the decline of the health services to a great extent due to the iron-fist

policy that Rabin's government exercises and escalates, violating the Fourth Geneva Convention on the human rights of the Palestinians under occupation.

Commentary Urges Return to Talks

TA0804164193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Apr 93 p 7

[Commentary by Da'ud Kuttab: "The Time Is Ripe Now To Return to the Talks"]

[Text] The title of this commentary may be surprising to many. How can one return to the peace talks while the situation in the occupied territories keeps deteriorating?

Undoubtedly, if the decision on whether to participate in the talks was based on emotions, that decision would have to be negative. But one expects a political leadership to understand the emotions and base its decision on logic rather than sentiments. The decision should take into consideration the interest, not the emotions, of the Palestinian people.

The question is: Is it in our interest to return to the talks? A quick reading of the local and international political situation undoubtedly endorses a return to the talks.

1. The Israeli Side

Despite the Israeli Government's recent numerous and grave decisions regarding the occupied territories, it is now more obvious than ever that the Israeli Government is in an impasse. It is admitting privately (and sometimes even publicly) that there are no solutions except political ones. This does not mean that Israel is ready to withdraw completely from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, but now it will be more pragmatic inside the negotiating room. The haughtiness that characterized the Israeli Governments of the Likud and Labor, which was evident in their hardline positions during the previous eight rounds, is expected to vanish at the start of the upcoming round of negotiations. The reason is that the recent acts of violence made unambiguously clear to the Israelis that the absence of serious peace has grave consequences both for the Israelis and Palestinians.

2. The U.S. Side

After several meetings with the new Clinton administration, it has become clear that the administration is serious in advancing the peace process through its readiness to play the role of a full partner. Despite the fact that the start of Clinton's presidency was bad for the Palestinians—a deal over the deportees that was humiliating to the Palestinians was struck with Israel and the UN Security Council was prevented from convening to adopt measures against Israel—Secretary of State Warren Christopher displayed understanding and a grasp of the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the U.S. Government pledged to play a bigger role in breaking the political deadlock in the bilateral talks. This had always been an Arab demand.

3. The Palestinian Street

The important and sensitive question remains: What will be the reaction of the Palestinian street? The deportation issue which caused the suspension of the talks has still not been finally resolved. In addition, the entire peace process has lost much of its credibility. How can one return to the talks amid such indignation in the Palestinian street?

The answer to this question lies in distinguishing between the leadership and the people. The leadership sometimes has to say what must be said, not what the people wish to hear. A wise leadership, characterized by farsightedness, descends to the street and tells the truth to the residents, instead of reflecting what the street wants without making any comment or stating a specific and clear opinion.

The issue of the talks and whether to participate in them is one of the most important decisions that the Palestinian leadership will have to make. That decision should be made not just only on the basis of whether to participate in the talks, but we should also consider the alternatives and the profit that we will gain by going to the talks as well as the price that we will have to pay if our position is negative.

I do not claim that it will be easy for the Palestinian leadership in Tunis to adopt a decision, but undoubtedly it will take the Palestinian people's interest into consideration when making its decision. We beseech the Almighty that the Palestinian leadership's decision will be the right one and in the interest of the people and homeland.

'Ball' Said in Palestinian 'Court'

TA0704194393 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "It Is Palestinian Interest That Decides"]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership suspended its meetings in Tunis without making a decision on its participation in the ninth round of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel, which are expected to be resumed in the third part of April. This decision was postponed in anticipation of the results of Egyptian President Mubarak's visit to Washington. The Palestinians were very hopeful that through his special relationship with the Americans, President Mubarak would be able to obtain better replies to the conditions set by the Palestinians for their return to the negotiating table.

Despite the great hopes pinned by the Palestinians on President Mubarak's visit to Washington, it became clear at Clinton's and Mubarak's news conference at the conclusion of their talks that the results were insignificant in comparison with Palestinian expectations. It is

no secret that this summit's agenda concentrated on Egypt's domestic affairs, Egypt's role in the Arab region through its close relations with the United States, the extent of U.S. support for Egypt in combating the activities of Islamic fundamentalist movements in Egypt in particular and the Middle East in general, and the need to resist the Islamic drive represented by Sudan and Iran. More important than all this was obtaining from President Clinton, the administration, and Congress a decision or promise not to reduce the financial aid, amounting to $2.1 billion, offered annually by the United States to Egypt.

Anyone thinking about this agenda must conclude that the Palestinian issue was marginal. Reports indicated that in his talks, the Egyptian president stressed the need to reach a Syrian- Israeli settlement and that in his view such an agreement would greatly contribute to spreading a climate of stability in the region. We return to the question: Why did the Palestinians pin such great hopes on President Mubarak's visit despite being aware of his priorities and chances? Procrastination in decision-making is of no avail; rather there is a strong possibility that the president will return from Washington to exert more pressure on the Palestinian side after obtaining a favorable reply to his requests concerning Egyptian affairs. President Mubarak will have a bill to pay by bringing the Palestinians to the negotiating table. It is common knowledge that all Arab states obtain whatever they want from the United States by making a deal at the expense of the Palestinian cause.

We are not saying this to criticize President Mubarak. He is an Egyptian leader working in the interests of Egypt. The time has come for the Palestinians to serve their own interests. Why wait for Mubarak and others when we have direct contact with the Americans? The Americans have unequivocally clarified their position on the deportee issue and the repatriation of the deportees. The ball now is in the Palestinian court. The decision on Palestinian participation in the upcoming round of negotiations will be made neither by Clinton, Mubarak, nor anyone other than the Palestinian leadership. This is how it should be.

Apparently, Israel and the United States have agreed to ignore Palestinian demands on removing the obstacles preventing the resumption of negotiations. It has been left for the Palestinians to decide whether to participate in or boycott the talks. In both cases the choice is bitter. If the Palestinians decide to return to the talks in the existing situation, it will lead to grave Palestinian splits inside and outside the occupied territories. And if the Palestinians decide to boycott the talks, the world will accuse them of wasting a golden opportunity to achieve a settlement of their problem. Thus, the Palestinian leadership finds itself in a bind similar to the one before Madrid—a new turning point in the long dark tunnel.

Mubarak 'Optimism' Viewed

TA0704181993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Apr 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Other Stations After Washington"]

[Text] Yesterday's meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton, was the climax of Arab contacts with the U.S. Administration. So far, the Arab negotiating parties have opted for a wait-and-see position on participation in the ninth round of peace talks, awaiting the results of those contacts in general and the Egyptian-U.S. summit in particular.

Undoubtedly, President Mubarak's statements following his meeting with President Clinton, in which he expressed his optimism on the possibility of holding the talks on their fixed date, are based—we hope—on the reality depicted by his U.S. interlocutor through which President Mubarak concluded that some sort of movement has occurred in U.S. positions regarding the obstacles impeding the resumption of negotiations.

The Mubarak-Clinton meeting derived its importance from the fact that it was not designed merely for discussion of bilateral relations but had a broad agenda, in which the Egyptian president summed up his talks with the Syrian and PLO leaderships as well as the deliberations of the Damascus meeting between the negotiating states' foreign ministers. Consequently, the Egyptian president carried the broad outlines of a coordinated Arab stance regarding the peace process as a whole.

Definitely, the Arab demands that the Egyptian president carried to Washington reflect a genuine tendency toward peace and an insistence on adding momentum to its realization on the basis of international legitimacy represented in numerous Security Council resolutions. Some of those resolutions constitute the terms of reference of the peace talks, and others call for providing a suitable climate for and removing obstacles to the peace process. These obstacles are in particular the continuing deportee issue, which remains unresolved, as well as the current Israeli practices and measures in the occupied territories.

Following their talks, the Egyptian and U.S. presidents made optimistic statements on the future of the peace process, although there is evidence of other stations through which the Egyptian-U.S. efforts must pass. Clearly, Israel is the first station for such efforts. It is still difficult to speculate about the Arab stance on participation in the talks as long as there is no change in Israeli positions regarding the deportee issue and other pending issues on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track.

Al-Husayni as Possible New Delegation Head Welcomed

TA0904185493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 16:30 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Yoni Ben-Menahem, on 8 April, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] A proposal has been made to appoint Faysal al-Husayni as head of the Palestinian delegation. What is the aim of this idea?

[Abu-Zayyad] This proposal has been mentioned in the local Israeli as well as the U.S. press. I hope this proposal is credible and that it will be realized. Brother al-Husayni's direct participation in the talks and the fact that he will head the Palestinian delegation means Jerusalem's participation. This will end the argument by others that Jerusalem residents should be disqualified from the talks. True, brother Faysal is head of the Palestinian team and the Palestinian leadership participates indirectly in everything that takes place and has the last word, but direct participation is extremely important. We hope that Faysal's appointment as the delegation's head will be followed by other steps, namely, direct talks between the Israeli Government and the PLO.

[Ben-Menahem] So you welcome this idea.

[Abu-Zayyad] We welcome this idea and believe that it is a step in the right direction and hope that it will be followed by other steps.

[Ben-Menahem] Can this step be considered a goodwill gesture to bring you back to the talks on 20 April?

[Abu-Zayyad] Such a step is definitely a goodwill gesture, but other steps are required to develop suitable conditions for returning to the talks.

[Ben-Menahem] In the event that Faysal al-Husayni assumes this post, what will happen to Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi who is the Palestinian delegation's head?

[Abu-Zayyad] That decision will be left to the Palestinian leadership. At any rate, Israel's mere readiness to allow a Palestinian from Jerusalem to participate in the talks has very important political implications. I believe that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi will be among those who will approve and welcome this step.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you have any idea what the Israeli position will be on this issue?

[Abu-Zayyad] We do not know what the Israeli position will be, but if Israel accepts Faysal's participation that will be a change in the Israeli viewpoint.

[Ben-Menahem] What is your stance on the upcoming meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Abu-Zayyad] President Mubarak's meeting with Rabin is part of efforts to remove obstacles from the political process. We hope that President Mubarak will succeed in persuading Mr. Rabin to adopt required steps and measures thereby facilitating the resumption of the talks.

[Ben-Menahem] Are you optimistic today on the possible resumption of the talks on 20 April?

[Abu-Zayyad] The issue is not optimism or pessimism. Obstacles have been placed in front of the Palestinian delegation. Efforts have been and are being exerted to remove those obstacles. It is expected that more Arab consultations will take place with the participation of Palestinians on 16 or 17 April. Other preparatory consultations are expected to be held in Washington between the Arab delegations and the U.S. side. We hope that all these talks will invigorate the process, remove the obstacles, and provide the opportunity for the talks' resumption. We are in a difficult situation. We want to give firm proof to our people that it is beneficial to participate in the political process. We want to prove that this process is fruitful and that it will produce good results for our people.

'Ashrawi Says No Change Planned

TA0904050293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi last night told Qol Yisra'el reporter Moti Amir that the invitation to the Palestinians to go to Washington for peace consultations came at a meeting yesterday morning with the American consul in East Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] She conveyed to us an invitation, which was conveyed to all the parties, to go to Washington for preconsultations in order to discuss the substance of negotiations but without linking this in any way to a response concerning the ninth round.

[Amir] To all the parties, including Israel?

['Ashrawi] Well, all the parties to have individual consultations. I mean, each party separately with the Americans on the substance of negotiations. These are what they call preconsultations. But they are not linked to whether we are going to the round or not. And we have not responded yet. We said we will consult and think about it. And we will give our response as soon as possible.

[Amir] When are you leaving to Washington?

['Ashrawi] Well, as soon as we decide whether we are leaving or not we will decide when and who will leave.

[Amir] I understand. So it does not say any date to be in Washington for preconsultations?

['Ashrawi] No, it says, you know, as soon as possible. And we are looking at the issue as a holistic issue on a question of categories rather than individuals, because we have no intention of changing the structure of our

delegation. So, Mr. al-Husayni will stay the head of the team, and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will stay the head of the delegation to the bilaterals, and Muhammad al-Hallaj will be the head of the multilaterals, regardless of who is in the room.

[Amir] If you will accept this suggestion, do you think that it will be okay and you will come to the talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, this is one aspect. This is one item, part of an overall package deal, frankly speaking, because we have several issues that are at stake, that are being discussed, and that are still being pursued, and we did not want to discuss each item in isolation or through partial discussion or to discuss details before they are finally formalized. So, in that sense we cannot say that this is only one item or one requirement. We can say that there are several issues and requirements that have to be addressed in a comprehensive way because they are all interconnected, whether it is the terms of reference, the negotiations positions, the formation of the delegation, or human rights issues, including deportations. [end recording]

U.S. Said To Support Role of Jerusalem Palestinians

LD0804170193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh today said that the United States supports a step aimed at putting an end to the veto imposed by Israel on the participation of Palestinians from Jerusalem in the peace talks on the Middle East. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that President Bill Clinton's administration supports the step which aims at allowing Faysal al-Husayni, head of the consultative group to the Palestinian delegation in the peace talks, and three other Jerusalem Palestinians to participate in the talks.

Hamas Representative Says No Plans To Fill PLO Role

NC0704133593 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, April 7 (AFP)—The Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas denied here Wednesday that it aimed to replace the PLO in the Gulf, where the wealthy oil states were once the Palestine Liberation Organisation's main financial backer.

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan and head of a team visiting Qatar, told AFP his movement was "not seeking to fill the void created by the freeze in relations between Gulf Arab states and the PLO."

"Our action is not in contradiction (with that of the PLO) but conceived to complement all other Palestinian initiatives," he said.

Hamas, which operates in the Israeli-occupied territories, is not a member of the PLO. In contrast to the organisation, it opposes the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process.

Members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council viewed the PLO as siding with Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. They lowered contacts with the organisation and froze financial aid.

But the PLO has since last year started to renew contacts with some Gulf states, including Qatar.

The Hamas delegation, which includes spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah and political department chief Musa Abu-Marzuq, had "very constructive" meetings in Doha, Nazzal said.

He said his group was received by the crown prince and defense minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, and other senior officials.

Nazzal said however his movement had never received public aid from Arab countries. "The assistance we get is from private sources, not governments," he insisted.

A Saudi official spokesman on Tuesday denied newspaper reports that Riyadh had given financial aid to fundamentalist movements in the Arab world, including Hamas.

'Arafat Receives Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister

LD0704195693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the Palestinian state, today received Mr. Nathan Shamuyarira, the foreign minister of Zimbabwe.

At the beginning of the meeting, the minister conveyed greetings from President Robert Mugabe, the Government, and the people of Zimbabwe to brother President Abu-'Ammar and through him to the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people.

He renewed his country's commitment to support the Palestinian people and their courageous intifadah to seize their freedom and national independence and to set up their own independent state on the soil of their homeland under the leadership of their legitimate and sole representative, the PLO.

During the meeting, they reviewed the various developments in the current situation in the Middle East region, and especially the daily and continuous escalation by the occupying Zionist forces with support from Rabin's government to oppress and terrorize our people in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Reactions to Iranian, Nigerian 'Quota Busting'

Kuwait Threatens Retaliation

NC0804143893 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait City, April 8 (AFP)—Kuwait threatened Thursday to exceed its OPEC quota by 400,000 barrels a day (b/d), after it accused Iran and Nigeria of breaking their quotas.

"We are capable at any time of carrying out our threats," Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said. "Kuwait has respected its commitments until now but also wants to protect its interests."

Al-Baghli said Kuwait would raise its production to two million b/d if other members of the 12-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries did not stick to the February agreement to boost sagging prices.

Kuwait's quota was set at 1.6 million b/d.

Al-Baghli on Tuesday accused Iran and Nigeria of exceeding their OPEC production quotas.

"The OPEC surplus is estimated at some 700,000 b/d, half of which is produced by Iran and Nigeria," he told AFP referring to several reports.

"If that proves to be true" at the next Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Muscat Monday, "Kuwait will then announce its final decision," he said.

OPEC members produced 24.29 million barrels of oil a day in March, some 700,000 b/d above their quota ceiling, despite a drop in output, according to the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

The Nicosia-based newsletter said its figures showed Iran to be the main over-quota producer, with its estimated March output of 3.71 million b/d being 370,000 b/d in excess of its quota.

OPEC's production in February stood at 25.56 million b/d, a jump of 300,000 b/d compared to January, due to over-quota production by both Iran and Kuwait, MEES said.

Kuwait reluctantly agreed to stick to its quota from March but threatened to exceed it if other OPEC countries did not respect theirs.

Gulf States 'Puzzled'

NC0804132493 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 8 (AFP)—Gulf Arab oil-producers are puzzled at Iran's reported violation of its OPEC output quota but are unlikely to follow suit to avert a collapse of prices, officials said Thursday.

"If the reports that Iran is over-producing are true, then I am completely puzzled," a United Arab Emirates oil official said, declining to be named. "It is totally against its policy of minimum output and maximum prices."

Kuwait has accused Iran and Nigeria of accounting for most of the 700,000 barrels per day (b/d) in excess production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Iran alone is reported to be pumping between 250,000 and 300,000 b/d over its OPEC quota of 3.34 million b/d.

OPEC oil ministers are expected to raise the issue when they meet in Muscat on Monday, ahead of talks with independent producers and a day after a meeting in Doha of the cartel's compliance committee.

Kuwait, which says it has some 400,000 b/d in spare capacity, has threatened to exceed its limit if other members did not respect an OPEC accord to cut production to 23.58 million b/d.

Independent surveys show the 12-nation cartel pumped around 24.2 million b/d in March, down from 25.6 million b/d in February. Despite the cut, prices have stayed between one and two dollars below the OPEC benchmark of 21 dollars per barrel.

"I don't think there is any major violation of quotas in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). They appear to be serious this time," a Gulf-based oil executive said. "But what I can not comprehend is the Iranian position."

Oil sources said quota violations could hamper a unified stand by oil-producers against proposed Western energy taxes, which could reverse a projected increase in demand and cost oil nations billions of dollars.

The taxes, set to dominate the Muscat talks, will levy around 3.5 dollars on each imported barrel of oil in the United States and 10 dollars by the year 2000 in the European Community.

The UAE daily AL-KHALIJ on Thursday criticised Iran.

"The reports on violations have undermined OPEC's credibility because the biggest violation came from Iran, which for years has carried the banner of demanding a cut in output and compliance with the ceiling no matter what the sacrifices are," it said.

"We wonder how Iran will face this oil gathering in Muscat next week?"

South Asian Regional Affairs

Two-Day SAARC Summit To Be Held in Dhaka

Official Briefs Newsmen

BK0604160893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The main concern of the ensuing SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in

Dhaka will be the revival of confidence among the member-countries. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman while briefing newsmen in Dhaka today. He said the main thrust of the summit would be to improve the standards of living of the common man of the member-countries.

He said the SAARC leaders will try to streamline the activities of the forum. The foreign secretary said an independent commission on poverty alleviation will be formed. Besides, two other major technical committees will be formed in different fields. One more committee on environment will also be formed. He said that an independent regional South Asian preferential trade arrangement will be made to protect the interests of the region. Mr. Reaz Rahman said the SAARC leaders will discuss the cooperation with other regional bodies, like ASEAN and EC. He said the leaders will try to boost the SAARC spirit and no bilateral issues will affect this.

As already reported, the South Asian heads of state and government will start gathering in Dhaka on Friday next for the two- day SAARC summit which begins on Saturday. All the regional leaders, except the Indian prime minister, will arrive in Dhaka on Friday. Mr. Narasimha Rao will arrive on Saturday morning. At the summit, the chairmanship of the regional forum will pass on to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from the current chairperson, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The Bangladesh government has taken maximum security arrangements during the summit.

India's Dinesh Singh Arrives 7 Apr

BK0804042093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has said that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] has provided a forum for building cooperation and confidence among the member countries.

Mr. Singh was talking to newsmen on his arrival in Dhaka yesterday to attend the SAARC council of ministers meeting today. Asked whether bilateral differences among the member countries would affect cooperation, Mr. Singh said once confidence is built up and joint venture projects started, the differences will slowly disappear. Asked about the Babri Mosque incident in Ayodhya, Mr. Singh said it was an aberration in Indian history and added that one should not judge a country by one incident.

Meanwhile, the informal meeting of the SAARC Programming Committee to finalize the draft of the Dhaka Declaration reached unanimity on most of the major points. Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the summit said that the draft would be referred to today's meeting of the foreign ministers.

Bangladesh Bans Rallies, Processions

BK0904041493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers are meeting in Dhaka again today to discuss the South Asian Federation Trade Agreement to be included in the draft declaration of the summit. They will also discuss other issues and give final touches to the draft declaration. Foreign secretaries had already deliberated on the trade agreement yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Government has imposed a total ban on rallies and processions till Monday to ensure that no disturbance is caused for foreign dignitaries attending the summit.

The Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, had a brief stopover at Madras yesterday evening on his way to Dhaka to chair the SAARC summit which begins tomorrow. Mr. Premadasa is the present chairman of SAARC.

Sri Lankan President Arrives

BK0904044293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0340 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Dhaka, April 9 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa became the first leader to arrive in Dhaka to participate in the two-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, officials said Friday.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman greeted him at the international airport Thursday midnight. Premadasa was taken to the summit's official residence amid tight security.

The summit, which is to start Saturday, was originally scheduled for Decemebe, but was twice postponed on Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's request following communal tensions in the region triggered by the demolition of a mosque in the Indian town of Ayodhya in Decemebe.

The SAARC is compriswd of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldivers.

Premadasa, who is the current chairman of the regional group, said South Asian states had been "subject nations" for a long time and its one billion people expected a great deal from the regional cooperation.

He said "we need not live in poverty since our region has resources, so it is our duty to ensure prosperity to our peoples through our programmes."

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala are scheduled to arrive here Friday.

Rao is scheduled to arrive about an hour before the summit's inaugural session Saturday from Thailand, where he is on an official trip.

Troops and policemen guarded Dhaka, dubbed as the "Birth place of SAARC," and national and multicoloured flags lined the main streets.

Algeria

Setif Police Break Up 'Terrorist' Groups

LD0804142893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The armed criminal investigation police of Setif Province security has put an end to the activity of a terrorist group. Faisal Ghames was able to gather some information about the process of breaking up this group.

[Ghames] Members of this group have nothing to do with the previous group, broken up at the end of last week. Criminal Investigation Police of Setif Province security services have said that interrogations with the previous group enabled them to apprehend 7 other people residents of the city of Setif.

Interrogation with them revealed their involvement in acts of sabotage, including the setting fire of the administration office of Farhat Abass University in Setif, in addition to threatening to murder a number of security officers and the setting up of parallel police.

The same services said there is a merchant among this group. The group used his shop to meet and plan its criminal operations. [passage omitted: the investigation continue to uncover the rest of the group]

Terrorists Assassinate Mosque Imam, Others

LD0804230593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Assassinations have reached the men of religion. The imam of one of the municipalities of Bordj Menaiel has been assassinated. After he had called for the evening prayers, he was forced to leave the mosque by force on the evening of 4 April, only to be found as a lifeless body the following morning. Mekdad Benabri, 39, an imam at the Haouch Benouali mosque in the municipality of Ras Djenat in Bordj Menaiel, also fell victim of terrorism. [passage omitted]

Another assassination took place the day before yesterday. The victim was a secretary at the social affairs and sports department at the Directorate of National Security in Hydra [quarter in Algiers]. The girl finished her work and left as usual, to be met by the bullets of treachery. Rachida Hammadi reports:

[Hammadi] Karima Belhadj, 21, has been assassinated. Her sole crime is that she was a secretary for a year at the social affairs and sports department of the General Directorate of National Security in Hydra. [passage omitted] She is the first woman to be assassinated by treacherous hands.

It was learned from the command of the National Gendarmerie that the terrorist Ziane Boulenouar, who resides in the El Anasser quarter [in Algiers] and who was being sought by the security forces for his involvement in the assassination attempt on Abdelhak Benhamouda, the assassination of the late Djillali Liabes, and the late Abdelhafid Senhadri, was killed this evening at 1600 when he tried to flee a house encircled by the special forces of the People's National Army and the National Gendarmerie. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Saharan Counterpart

LD0804162393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam today received Saharan Prime Minister Mahfoud Ali Beiba and discussed with him the general situation in the region. The meeting was attended by the ambassador of the Saharan Republic in Algeria.

Egypt

Muslim Brotherhood Said To 'Disagree' With 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC0804141893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, has denounced all the criminal attacks on tourists, foreigners, and Egyptians that have occurred recently, describing them as crimes that do not conform with the values and manners of Islam.

During his meeting with the Foreign Correspondents Society in Cairo today, al-Hudaybi said the Muslim Brotherhood has no connection whatsoever to the acts of extremism, terrorism, and assassination that have taken place in Egypt in the past few years.

Al-Hudaybi said: We disagree with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman over his call for the use of violence and terrorism. He noted that the Muslim Brotherhood is a separate and independent entity from the Labor Party and that it has had its own program since the group was formed in 1938.

Al-Hudaybi stressed that Islam is a religion that respects the beliefs of others and does not force anyone to convert.

Al-Hudaybi called for more democracy and for the freedom to establish parties and publish newspapers. He denounced the crimes committed by the Serbs against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including the rape of 60,000 Muslim women within the sight and hearing of the whole world.

Consultative Council Committee Head Comments on Terrorism

NC0804085393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2203 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee, has called for continuing dialogue with the extremists, but not with terrorists. He noted that dialogue with extremists is necessary because it could prevent them from turning into terrorists.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper to be published 8 April, he said he cannot ignore the social and economic conditions that have led to extremism, adding that these conditions play a primary role in the spread of terrorism.

Dr. Shihab regretted the indifference, weakness, and inactivity of the political parties, trade unions, and professional and youth organizations in including youths and curbing terrorism.

He pointed out that confronting terrorism is not only the duty of the security agencies, but a comprehensive political and social confrontation. He expressed hope that the security agencies' methods of dealing with the problem will not escalate terrorism in Egypt. He said challenging terrorism through religion is a quick and basic way to deal with the problem.

Former al-Jihad Member Discloses Organizational Details

NC0804072493 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 5 Apr 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jihad Member Makes Sensational Disclosures to ROSE AL-YUSUF"]

[Text] A former leading member of al-Jihad Organization has spoken to ROSE AL-YUSUF. Drawing on firsthand experience, he made two important revelations in connection with remarks to REUTER by Assistant Interior Minister Major General Baha'-al-Din Ibrahim. Our magazine cited the assistant minister's remarks in last week's issue.

First: The assistant interior minister said that the leaders of terrorist organizations are based in Pakistan and Afghanistan and that he "believes" they are guiding the groups in Egypt from there. The former al-Jihad member said that the actual guidance of the military elements—of whom he was one—takes place "inside Egypt."

Second: The assistant interior minister pointed out that "the key for the strength of terrorist groups is their organization." The former al-Jihad member noted that the most vital source of power for the terrorists is that "senior officials and employees sympathize with the fundamentalists and help them."

To prove his point, the former al-Jihad member said that several al-Jihad members were arrested in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and deported to Cairo. Having arrived at Cairo airport, they were allowed to board another plane leaving the country.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] How do you know that the members received help in escaping the country from Egyptian authorities at Cairo airport?

He said: Those were al-Jihad members who were living in Saudi Arabia and wrote to us regularly. Suddenly, the correspondence stopped. Later, we learned that Egyptian security organs had been in touch with Saudi authorities about them. We received reliable information that they had left Saudi Arabia and were actually heading for Cairo. Then the correspondence resumed, but this time from Jordan.

The former al-Jihad member spoke about the methods of recruitment, communication between the leadership and the rank-and-file and within the rank-and-file, and training. The former member, who was a leading figure in the military branch, disclosed the precision with which the cells specializing in terror are organized.

The former member's remarks support the assistant interior minister's claim that "even when the police uncover one of the cells it is difficult to find out their secrets."

The former al-Jihad member said: Members of the same cell know each other by name. However, it is impossible for a member of one cell to know a member of another cell unless an operation is carried out by members of different cells.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] How?

He said: By means of an Iranian two-rial coin that the member carries on his key ring.

The former al-Jihad member added: Also, in all the operations that have been carried out, there were never two members taking part from the same cell. The organization tends to assign to every operation members not only from different cells, but also from different areas.

To illustrate this statement, he cited the operation to assassinate [antifundamentalist author] Faraj Fudah. The first defendant, 'Abd-al-Shafi Ramadan, was a plumber from al-Zawiyah al- Hamra' [in Cairo]. The second, Mansur Ahmad Mansur, was a lawyer from al-Wayli [in Cairo]. The third, Ashraf Sha'ban Ramadan, who is still at large, is a mystery; he could be from al-Fayyum or Sawhaj.

Reportage on President Mubarak's Visit to France

WA0904155993

For reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to France, including reports on his talks with President Mitterrand and Premier Edouard Balladur, please see

the France section of the 7 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Mubarak Returns to Cairo After 10-Day Tour

NC0804193193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1728 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening from Paris after a 10-day tour that took him to Germany, Britain, the United States, and France.

Sudanese Opposition Group Condemns al-Bashir Government

NC0704193793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party in Cairo has renewed its solidarity with the Sudanese people and their honorable patriots as they struggle to establish a democratic Sudan. In a statement marking the 8th anniversary of the April uprising [against former President Ja'far al-Numayri], the party saluted the martyrs who sacrificed their blood for their homeland, and the Sudanese at home and abroad who stand in the frontlines of national resistance.

The statement said the party renews its denunciation and condemnation of the regime's continued oppressive practices, which violate and defy UN resolutions. Such practices, said the statement, include the arrest of [Ummah Party leader] al-Sadiq al- Mahdi for 24 hours. The statement holds the al-Bashir government responsible for the results of its hostile escalation against the Egyptian brothers and its repeated aggressions against citizens.

Libya

JANA Editor on Clinton Statement, BBC Reporting

LD0804222893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The JANA political editor said the British Broadcasting Corporation's misrepresentations could make it lose its credibility and harm its reputation among its listeners when it quoted U.S. President Clinton as saying he demands the handover of those who were suspected [of being involved in the Lockerbie incident] and that this agrees with Libyan demands. This is a deliberate distortion and irresponsible twisting of the truth.

President Clinton did not speak about handing over those suspected, nor did the UN Security Council, and the Libyans did not even say anything.

Our explanation of President Clinton's reference to stepping up the compulsory sanctions on Libya is that stepping up the sanctions would be linked to Libya refusing to let the suspects appear before a just and honest court. This is what President Clinton said and this is what we have repeatedly demanded—that the suspects appear before a just and honest court.

External Liaison Bureau Rejects British Statement

LD0804210593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] In reply to a statement by the British Foreign Office spokesman today, a source at the General People's Committee at the People's Bureau for External Liaison made the following statement:

All the British statements and actions spring from a hidden hatred and a historical racism. It cannot be in a civilized sense or according to the bases that have been accepted by the world in dealing with international relations that deciding on an international policy is done through such a hateful mentality.

Britain is accused of blackmailing Libya. Hatred is the motive behind this blackmail of Libya which has given [Britain] the greatest service by providing it with information on the Irish Republican Army [IRA] after the IRA became involved in committing terrorist acts which had no connection with the just cause of the Irish people.

Britain is saying its patience is exhaused when the matter concerns us. Why doesn't its patience become exhausted with the Israelis, against whom scores of international resolutions have been passed, including some which were supposed to be implemented within 24 hours? The Israelis never implemented those resolutions, not even after 24 years. Why is Britain's patience not exhausted there? Is this not considered to be sufficient evidence of a hateful racist policy?

Response to Request for Jerusalem Pilgrimage Viewed

LD0804221393 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] AL-MANAR of Jerusalem has been talking about the Libyan pilgrims wanting to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The JANA editor of local affairs commented on this, saying that the Muslim Libyan Arabs have been forcibly prevented from going on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Consequently, and this is their right, they have thought of changing the direction of their pilgrimage, to Jerusalem. They believe that they might even change their qiblal. [direction of prayers]. Now there is no difference between Mecca and Jerusalem. Libyans have been prevented from reaching both of them.

This issue is of concern to the Muslim Libyan Arabs and the performance of their religious rites. It has no connection with the Israelis who are an occupation force. If these occupiers prevented the Libyans from going to Jerusalem for pilgrimage this is another point against them which affirms and stresses the need to liberate Jerusalem and the whole of Palestine from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea.

Morocco

Filali Meets With Egyptian Foreign Minister

LD0904052293 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] In Rabat this evening, Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, had talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who arrived in Morocco this afternoon on a 2-day visit during which he will convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Hassan II.

The talks between the two sides dealt with relations between Morocco and Egypt and ways to develop them, as well as a number of international and Arab issues and, foremost, the Middle East peace process in light of international developments.

King Appoints New Secretary General of Finance Ministry

LD0804131693 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Rabat, Apr.8 (MAP)—King Hassan II chaired here Wednesday a Ministers' Council that examined and adopted several legislative and statutory texts, including 17 draft dahirs acting as a law, 102 draft decrees and 69 international conventions and accords.

King Hassan II also appointed high ranking officials to several ministerial departments. Khalid el-Kadiri was thus appointed secretary general of the Finance Ministry. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Somalia's Aidid Meets Ghazi al-Din

EA0804215593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Sudan has renewed its support for the Somali reconciliation accord which was signed between the various Somali factions in Addis Ababa. It declared that it is putting forward all its potential and technical experience to contribute to the Somali reconstruction, unity, and stability.

This was said when Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the Presidency, met Gen. Mohamed Farah Aidid, president [as heard] of the United Somali Congress.

Dr. al-Din stressed the adherence of the brothers in Somalia to this accord and the striving for Somali unity. He pointed out that the accord represents a framework and a symbol of Somali sovereignty through the executive and legislative organ which was approved by all the factions. He expressed his hope that the United Nations will play its role in making arrangements for the implementation of the accord. Dr. al-Din expressed Sudan's concern about repeated reports on the efforts by some quarters in international organizations to put Somalia under an international mandate, affirming that this measure will again lead to the aggravation and complication of the problem.

SPLA-Torit Alleges Regime Arming Other Groups

AB0804221093 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Nairobi, April 8 (AFP)—Sudanese rebels on Thursday accused the government of breaking a ceasefire by arming dissident rebel factions which they said were fighting against them for Khartoum.

A spokesman for a rebel faction led by John Garang, founder of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the government had flown heavy artillery, guns and ammunition to dissident SPLA factions. [passage omitted]

"The National Islamic Front government is fighting the war by proxy," said Elijah Malok, the Nairobi-based spokesman for Garang's "Torit" faction.

He branded Riak's faction and two other rebel groups that have formed an alliance with it "surrogates and traitors," and accused them of waging a "genocidal and treacherous war against the suffering Sudanese people.

But Nyang Chol, a Nairobi representative of the Nasir group, dismissed the allegations as "baseless lies." [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Talks With Libya on 'Crisis' Between Libya, West

LD0804223493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Within the framework of following up the results of President Zine El Abidine's recent visit to the sisterly Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and proceeding from the continuous consultation between the two countries, Mr Habib Ben Yahya, the minister of foreign affairs, today received Mr 'Abd-al-'Ati al- 'Ubaydi, the general delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Tunis. The meeting touched on a number of questions of concern to the region including the latest developments in the current crisis between Libya and some Western countries.

Foreign Minister, Faysal al-Husayni Discuss Peace Deadlock

LD0804223593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya today reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the peace process in the Middle East with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, in the presence of Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in

Tunisia. This meeting comes within the continuous consultations between Tunisia and the Palestinian leadership which His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is anxious to maintain through his continuous meetings with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. These talks also come in the wake of the recent visit to Washington by the Palestinian delegation and the latest meeting held by the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

Oman

Joint Communique on Visit by Yemen's al-Bid

JN0904102793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Apr 93

["Text" of a joint communique issued in Sanaa and Muscat on 8 April at the end of a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council]

[Text] Out the brotherly joint relations between the two sisterly people in the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman; out of the belief in the need to develop bilateral relations; out of both political leadership's desire to embody the hopes of the two sisterly people and countries for a continuous cooperation in all fields to strengthen brotherly ties between them; in order to achieve a full understanding, reinforce common Arab cooperation in general, and to reinforce and develop strong cooperation in particular; and at the invitation of His Highness Thuwayni Bin- Shihab Al Sa'id, personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, in the name of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman 14-16 Shawwal 1413 Hegira corresponding to 6-8 April 1993, accompanied by a ranking delegation.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received His Excellency 'Ali al-Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidental Council, and the delegation accompanying him. The two sides discussed the existing fraternal bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them in all fields in the service of the interests of the two fraternal people in the two countries. They also discussed Arab and international issues of common interest.

The Yemeni and Omani sides held official talks in a spirit of brotherhood and understanding. The two sides discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and ways to reinforce and develop them in the service of the common interests and the two fraternal people. The two sides also discussed current Arab and international issues.

The Yemeni side was chaired by His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen; and the Omani side was chaired by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, personal representative of his majesty the sultan. The talks were attended on the Yemeni side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister; His Excellency 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of construction and repair; His Excellency Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, minister of supply and trade; His Excellency Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense; His Excellency 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, head of the presidential office; His Excellency Salih 'Ubbad al-Khawlani, governor of Hadramawt; His Excellency Muhammad 'Abdallah Kuddah, governor of al-Mahrah; and His Excellency Muhammad 'Umar Bassad, Yemeni ambassador to Oman.

For Oman, the talks were attended by His Excellency Qasim Hamad Bin-Sa'ud, minister of the sultan court; His Excellency General 'Ali Bin-Majid al-Mi'mari, minister of the palace affairs; His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Salim Bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of communications; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-'Ali al-Qatali, minister of electricity and water; His Excellency Maqbul Bin-'Ali Sultan, trade and industry minister; His Excellency Musallam Bin-'Ali al-Busa'idi, minister of state and Dhofar governor; His Excellency Ambassador Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry; and His Excellency 'Awad [name indistinct], Omani ambassador to Yemen.

In their review of bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their happiness at the excellent level of the deep-rooted relations, particularly after the final signing of the international border agreement between the two sisterly countries in Sanaa on 1 October 1992. The agreement is considered an important turning point in the march of these relations. They also expressed happiness at the positive steps represented by the agreement on the highway between the two countries and on opening the crossing points for trade and travel, by the cooperation between the two countries to develop and enhance the common border areas, and by reinforcing bilateral cooperation in all fields, particularly in the field of trade and economic relations.

The two parties also agreed to set up a joint committee chaired by the Yemeni minister of supply and trade and the Omani minister of trade and industry. The committee will meet in the near future.

The Yemeni side explained the developments and achievements scored through Yemeni unity and the progress of preparations for the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on 27 April 1993. The Omani side praised these steps and efforts which will strengthen the march of unity and democracy and which mark the beginning of a new phase of progress and development.

The two sides also reviewed the situation in the region and stressed the importance of cooperation and understanding among the regional states on the basis of the principles of good neighborliness and noninterference in others' internal affairs and strengthening security and stability for the region and its people to spare it the specter of tension and conflict.

Reviewing the conditions in the Arab arena, the two sides affirmed their belief in the need for, and importance of strengthening Arab solidarity and unifying Arab efforts and energies to counter all challenges and threats facing our Arab peoples. In this regard, the two sides stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Palestine question, the core of conflict in the Middle East. They

voiced support for the peace talks and asserted the need to achieve a just, peaceful, and comprehensive peace that guarantees security for all states in the region and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their own soil in accordance with the pertinent UN Security Council. They expressed the hope that the difficulties facing the efforts exerted by the two cosponsors and the world community to achieve peace in the region would be overcome.

The two sides also reviewed the situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly the deteriorating situation in sisterly Somalia. They stressed the importance of stability there out of concern for the safety and future of the Somali people and regional security. The two parties aspire for an Arab effort to join the international efforts to help restore stability and peace in that region. They also urge all Somali factions to give priority to supreme national interests over narrow interests.

The two sides reviewed the tragic conditions of the Bosnia- Herzegovina people and urged the world community to exert serious efforts to stop the Serb aggression and enable the Bosnia- Herzegovina people to strengthen their independence and achieve peace on their land.

The two sides discussed world conditions and developments. They expressed the hope that these conditions would stabilize on the basis of equitable world cooperation. They also expressed the hope that the UN role would be activated in a fair manner, and that the role played by the world majority would be developed for the benefit of world security and stability and the future of mankind.

The two sides agreed to:
1. Build a road connecting al-Mazyunah to al-Ghaydah.
2. Build a road connecting al-Hawf to Dalkut.
3. Consider the crossing points on these two roads the official crossing points for passenger and goods traffic.
4. Complete the measures to set up the joint committee for economic and technical cooperation.
5. Open the crossing points as of 1 June 1993.

In conclusion, His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, voiced appreciation and gratitude to his brother His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, and to the Omani government and people for the cordial welcome and the Arab hospitality which he and his delegation received in Oman.

Al-Bid Meets With Press, Departs

JN0804145393 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council in the sisterly Republic of Yemen, and his delegation, left the country at the end of a three-day official visit to the Sultanate. During his official visit, al-Bid held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and ranking Omani officials dealing with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering and developing them in various fields. [passage omitted]

In a news conference at Qasr al-Bustan Hotel this morning, his excellency said his meetings with his majesty the sultan were beneficial and fruitful, and said the meetings were characterized by amity, frankness, and future vision, all of which is call for optimism.

He added that the talks were held with open ears and minds, and stressed that concluding the border agreement between the Sultanate and the Yemeni Republic was a good step. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, also held a news conference this morning in which he spoke about His Excellency al-Bid's visit to the Sultanate. He described the visit as historic, and pointed out al-Bid's role in the realization of Yemeni unity, as well as his constructive role in Omani-Yemeni relations. [passage omitted]

His excellency added that viewpoints were exchanged on political issues in the Arab arena, in general, and the Gulf region in particular, as well as international developments. He stressed that the viewpoints of the Sultanate and Yemen during the talks were harmonious, and said: We feel that we meet with our Yemeni brothers in style and trends, and in dealing with these issues. [passage omitted]

He said that without need for mediation, Yemen can open dialogue with its brothers in the Arabian Gulf states. He stressed that circumstances for starting this effort are better now than they had been in the past.

As for relations with Iraq, his excellency said there is general agreement on adhering to Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, as well as the safety of the Iraqi people. He pointed out that the time is not yet right for restoring political relations between Iraq and the other Gulf states. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

West's 'Uneven' Treatment of Mideast States Castigated

PM0804180493 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 5 Apr 93 pp 1, 32

[Editorial: "The Forbidden Equality Between the Arabs and Israel"]

[Text] It may be folly to believe that issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict can be settled by separate means or through major concessions only by the Arabs. It would be more truthful to weigh the problem in its practical context in relation to the interests of the region's states first and then in relation to the states linked to it strategically and economically.

Israel has remained the voice that is heard and the line of defense for Western and American interests in the region. The old pretexts were the charges made against the states which sought alliance with the Soviet Union or the Eastern Bloc, including China and the the states which upheld anti-Western Marxist ideologies. Circumstances, however, have changed. The Palestinians have accepted the UN resolutions, Egypt has diplomatic relations with Israel, and trade, political approaches, and joint projects are steered toward the West more than in any other direction. Yet Israel remains the favored party, in a way that denotes complete partiality.

That may be attributed to the lack of a joint Arab stand and to the divisions which have even reached the Palestinians whose cause it is, but the result would probably not have changed. It is, in our view, too farfetched and unrealistic of the United States or the European states to ask the Arabs to end their boycott of Israel at a time when the Palestinians are being subjected to the worst kind of boycott and blockade. If these states really want to free these countries [of the region] from all restrictions, they should at least impose peace under the law of interests for all parties without absolving Israel of its responsibility for complicating the political issues and adamantly maintaining the tension, and without supporting every position it takes relying on full support for every plan it submits and on those who try, on its behalf, to impose its plans on the Arabs.

The Western states' uneven treatment is what harmed the region and plunged it into wars and conflicts, so much so that it is no longer a secret that Israel is kept as the sole nuclear power in the region, its research is supported, and it is supplied with technological and material aid in return for nothing except the elimination of the Arab factor from human existence.

Israel has acted as the policeman of the region and has tried to deprive the Palestinians of any kind of existence, and it has tried by every means to deny Arab power the right to defend Arab security and interests; and then it obtrusively wanted peace in an unbalanced situation where it would gain economic and political relations and have the Arab borders opened to it, while it rejects reciprocal treatment and refuses to discuss the magnitude of its destructive military power or to demarcate its borders and stop its ugly racist practices in the occupied territory.

In brief, if the states interested in the region's security are still keeping their distance, they are the only ones who hold the keys to the locked doors in Israel. Therefore, the locks must be removed before any other action which might complicate matters rather than solving them.

Yemen

Vice President al-Bid Returns From Oman Visit

JN0804180593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Sanaa at noon today after a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was welcomed upon arrival at Sanaa International Airport by brothers 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, member of the Presidential Council; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives; Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister; several members of the cabinet and Advisory Council; other senior officials; and the Omani ambassador in Sanaa, brother 'Awad Mahmud Ba-Kathir. [passage omitted]

Bomb Explosion Reported Near Baghdad Security Center

LD0804172793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] A bomb has exploded in the al-Thawrah region in eastern Baghdad, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi military forces.

A source affiliated with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq office [in Tehran] announced this today and said the explosion took place near one of the Iraqi regime's security centers. The source added: Following the opposition groups' activities, the Saddam regime has set up checkpoints in the al-Thawrah, al-Shu'lah, and al-Kazimiyah regions of Baghdad and is severely controlling all roads leading to those regions.

The same source also added: The number of the security forces have visibly increased during the past few days around security, military, and party headquarters, particularly around the Defense Ministry building.

Opposition Reports Attacks Against Government Troops

NC0804164193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Forces of the popular resistance have recently attacked a troop center of the outcast tyrant in the marshlands of al-Nasiriyah. This was reported by Iraqi opposition sources, who noted that resistance forces used mortars to shell the center for 30 minutes. The sources stressed that the tyrant regime's forces suffered heavy human and material losses.

A group of the popular resistance planted an explosive charge in one of the regime's secret hideouts in al-Basrah Governorate. Opposition sources said the explosion caused extensive human and material damage.

Merchants, Buyers Arrested for Violating Set Prices

JN0804124693 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Apr 92 p 4

[Interview with Brigadier General Hashim Muhammad Faraj, director of the Economic Crime Combating Directorate, by 'Abd-al- Bari al-Hariri on 2 April 1993]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hariri] How have you been dealing with the new pricing list of commodities?

[Faraj] Pursuant to the instructions of Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, we have mobilized all our force and deployed detachments under the command of officers to monitor the markets and merchants' abidance by the fixed prices. New methods are being followed and Baghdad has been divided into sectors to maintain continuous control and monitoring. Permanent detachments are positioned in Jamilah, al-Kazimiyah, and new Baghdad markets which are constantly frequented by citizens.

[Al-Hariri] How many violators have so far been arrested?

[Faraj] Three hundred violators were arrested between 31 March and 2230 this evening, 2 April. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hariri] What measures will be taken against violators?

[Faraj] The violators—merchants or buyers—will be imprisoned for six months. Our detachments have begun sealing off the shops of those merchants, preventing any activity in these shops until the end of the detention period. In addition, signs will be posted on these shops indicating the reason for closure. [passage omitted]

PUK's Talabani Views Ocalan Peace Initiative

NC0804193793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 93

["Text" of interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, leader Jalal Talabani by an unidentified BBC correspondent, place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [BBC] How could the PUK leader pursue the issue of establishing peace between the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] leader Abdullah Ocalan and Turkish officials?

[Talabani] I am not a mediator between the Turkish Government and the Kurdish Workers Party. I have made efforts based on the principles we believe in on the peaceful and democratic solution of all issues, including the Kurdish cause. So I will continue to try to establish peace in the Kurdish areas in Turkey and to encourage brother Abdullah Ocalan to extend the truce and give ample time to all those trying to reach a political and democratic solution inside Turkey.

[BBC] Does Talabani believe his talks with Turkish officials will encourage Ocalan to extend the cease-fire?

[Talabani] As for this initiative, I have found that everyone wants peace and wants to end the bloodshed in Turkey. But the Turkish Government is cautious and is not ready to hold a direct dialogue with the PKK, despite everyone's desire to extend peace and give enough time to the ongoing efforts to find peaceful and democratic solutions to the outstanding problems in Turkey.

[BBC] What is your reaction to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's announcement that he might be prepared to lift the state of emergency after June if no more acts of violence are carried out in southeast Turkey?

[Talabani] I believe the results of Ocalan's initiative are enough to convince him to continue the path toward peace. Everyone in Turkey received this initiative favorably. The Turkish press highlighted it and it prompted several Turkish political circles and intellectuals to try to work out the peaceful, political, and democratic solution to the Kurdish problem. Ocalan's initiative was received favorably in Europe and the United States. I believe that all these signs are enough to convince Ocalan to pursue the peaceful initiative.

I consider Demirel's statements to be positive and I hope that peace will prevail in the area and that the state of emergency and martial law will be revoked indefinitely in the area.

More Airspace Violations Protested to Arab League

JN0804125493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft which constantly violate Iraqi airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This poses a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter sent the day before yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said that these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and carried out 88 hostile air sorties on 3 and 4 April.

Iraq's Arab League representative enclosed a list of these violations and requested that it be distributed to the Arab League member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

Assembly Speaker Departs for IPU Conference in India

JN0904112493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpt] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and his delegation left today for India to attend the 89th session of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU], scheduled to be held in New Delhi 12-17 April. [passage omitted]

Peres on al-Husayni Joining Peace Talks

TA0904063993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Will Israel accede to the U.S. request to co-opt Faysal al-Husayni into the Palestinian delegation?

[Peres] It will be considered after a request is made. I take into account that al-Husayni is in fact head of the Palestinian team. We are not talking about somebody not involved in the negotiations. He is in fact already the main address for the United States, and even a blind man can understand that this is the situation.

[Zissowitz] He is a resident of East Jerusalem. Israel has so far opposed having East Jerusalem representatives included in the delegation.

[Peres] I believe he has two addresses, not just one.

[Zissowitz] And that makes it okay? Are you not concerned that it hints at an Israeli erosion over the status of Jerusalem?

[Peres] No, I do not worry about our positions. I take ourselves much more seriously than many of our critics do. I believe that the fate of peace depends on us. I believe that the fate of security depends on us. We are not unfortunates who should be pitied, and we should not tell ourselves all the time that we cannot depend on ourselves. We have so far come up with the goods whenever we have promised something. This is definitely the case with Jerusalem and its future as the united capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 9 April carries a similar interview with Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ge'ula Even, in which he is also asked whether East Jerusalem residents will be able to vote for the Palestinian autonomy elections, but in ballot boxes in Bethlehem or Ramallah. Peres responds: "That was the previous Labor stand. The present government has not yet decided on the issue, but I have no reason to dissociate myself from Labor's prior position."]

[Zissowitz] The United States is also promising the Palestinians a significant package of gestures, as Mr. Djerejian said, if they come to the talks. Will Israel be paying the price for those gestures?

[Peres] What does that mean? Negotiations are an exchange of gestures instead of an exchange of blows. What are the features of negotiations? Instead of coming with outstretched swords and a mouth full of abuse, you come to negotiations with goodwill. We will, of course, be making gestures, and I expect the Palestinians will also do so. Negotiations are in fact a genuine search for the middle ground where the sides can meet with dignity and seriousness, and build a new life.

[Zissowitz] It is easy to guess what gestures the Palestinians will ask for or have already asked for, but what is Israel asking for from the Palestinians or from the United States?

[Peres] Basically, they should get what they have already agreed to, in other words, to resolve the dispute between them and us in two stages, with the first stage being one of self-rule. It is clear that self-rule is not full independence.

[Zissowitz] For example, can the gesture be a clear-cut Palestinian declaration to cease terrorism?

[Peres] That is not a bad idea.

[Zissowitz] Will Israel insist on that?

[Peres] It will insist on it, but I do not think it will make it a condition because the national unity governmentalso did not make it one. Anybody who tries to make that a condition will hand over the fate of the negotiations to the terrorists.

[Zissowitz] The Palestinians are calling for gestures. They presented their demands to the U.S. secretary of state when he paid a visit here. They want an Israeli commitment that there will be no more deportations, and even an Israeli readiness to consider bringing forward the return of the deportees. Is one more Israeli gesture to appease the Palestinians expected?

[Peres] There is a difference between the reality in practice and the reality that has to be announced. In practice, the deportations were never our policy. It is an extraordinary, one- time move, and I do not believe that it is going to become a permanent instrument of Israeli policy in the future. It is, however, inconceivable for the Palestinians to want something absolute without making an absolute commitment to stop terrorism. It is a superfluous declaration. I do not think we have to respond to everything the Palestinians ask for. We have to take into account their plight, but we do not have to spoil them. Had the Palestinians come and said: We make an absolute commitment to cease terrorism, I would say that we should make an absolute commitment to end the deportations. Last December's deportations were a reaction.

[Zissowitz] In other words, as long as there is no such commitment by the Palestinians, Israel will not make a commitment to not repeat that action.

[Peres] Israel explained its move, and in my view, that explanation is the same as a commitment. It explained that deportations are not a policy, but an exceptional move. If no need arises, if there are no terrible actions, who would do it again in the future? Nobody wants to implement deportations. It is not something we aspire to and not initiated by us or born out of a vacuum. In general, we have not carried out deportations, and I hope we will not be dealing with them any more.

[Zissowitz] The package of gestures now being promised to the Palestinians is perhaps something the Palestinians

got for refusing to come to the negotiating table and proves that rejectionism pays.

[Peres] You have maybe not noticed that the Americans told the Palestinians that the gestures will only come after the negotiations start and not as a prize for coming to the negotiations. In general, when negotiations begin there is an exchange of gestures, as I have already said.

[Zissowitz] One other thing I want to ask you is the closure on the territories. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared clearly that the closure will not be lifted prior to the end of the Passover holiday, but Israel's policy in general is to completely separate the people of the two nations. Do you support that?

[Peres] Basically, self-rule is the best separation there can be. One of the aims of self-rule is to avoid a situation similar to Yugoslavia in Israel.

[Zissowitz] The question is what will happen until then. Do you support the idea that steps should be taken now to bring about such a separation?

[Peres] Until self-rule is implemented Israel must be responsible for what happens in the territories, including economically. It is, of course, preferable for building in Israel to be done by Israelis, but as long as Israel controls the territories it has responsibility for the fate of their inhabitants. That is why I am so careful about my wording. I do not want to create the impression that we are merely the police force of the territories; we are also the government of the territories until we are replaced by another government.

[Zissowitz] What you are saying does not conform with what was declared by the prime minister.

[Peres] I do not think that is right. The prime minister says the same thing and there are cabinet deliberations. Parallel with the reduction in the number of workers from the territories in Israel, we have to increase investment in the territories. In other words, we cannot escape the wider responsibility for what happens in the territories.

Labor's Knesset Leader on Peace Process

PM0804112493 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 5 Apr 93 p 10

[Interview with Eli Dayan, leader of the Labor Party group in the Knesset, by Umberto De Giovannangeli; date and place not given]

[Text] "In Washington we intend to submit new and more advanced proposals to the Palestinians on transitional autonomy for the territories. That is why I feel that failure to attend the next peace talks session would be a serious mistake. In recent days I have met with various Palestinian representatives and Arab deputies leaving for Tunis (where the PLO leadership is meeting—L'UNITA editor's note). I told them that the time for agreement is running out, and that if the Rabin government fails in the peace process, it will be succeeded by an extremist government from which the Palestinians will not be able to wrench any concessions."

This is Eli Dayan, leader of the Labor Party group in the Knesset, one of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's closest advisers, speaking. "I am certain of one thing: The present status quo cannot continue. Either the negotiations make a real leap in quality at the next session, or the Middle East will plummet into an abyss."

[De Giovannangeli] For the past week Gaza and the West Bank have been cut off from the rest of the world. The Israeli Government has given the Army greater freedom to open fire in the occupied territories. Do you think these measures can really put an end to the escalation of violence which has marked Israel and the territories in the last month?

[Dayan] Today we are having to confront a precise terrorist plan: to wreck the peace process via a series of attacks carried out in the heart of Israeli territory. It is no longer just our soldiers who are in the terrorists' sights but people in the streets. This causes a widespread feeling of insecurity and fear; and fear is the enemy of dialogue. Faced with the repeated stabbing of defenseless citizens, we could not fail to take drastic measures, which is what the indefinite isolation of Gaza and the West Bank undoubtedly is. We need this separation in order to defuse tension which is extremely high today, but we are well aware, unlike the extreme Right, that Israel's security is linked to a political agreement with our Arab and Palestinian neighbors. That is why we think the next peace talks session is decisive: On that occasion we will put forward new proposals to make a compromise with all our interlocutors possible.

[De Giovannangeli] Even with the Palestinians?

[Dayan] Of course. For our part, we can only join in the appeal President Clinton made to the Palestinian leaders in the territories not to waste a historic opportunity to reach agreement with a government interested in an agreement. Besides, it is our intention to submit new proposals to the Palestinian delegation regarding transitional autonomy for Gaza and the West Bank incorporating observations and ideas from the other side. That is another reason why it would be a tragic mistake not to be in Washington on 20 April. There is not much time left to achieve peace.

[De Giovannangeli] But the Palestinians are making their participation dependent on a return home of all the deportees in Lebanon.

[Dayan] We must be extremely clear on this point. The Israeli Government is committed to a staggered return of all the Hamas activists expelled last December by the end of 1993. On that basis, it is not Israel but the United Nations which has deemed the matter closed.

[De Giovannangeli] The explosion of the "knife intifadah" in the last month has caused anger and fear in the

Israeli public; the Right has used this to call for an iron fist against the "Arab criminals." In this climate is it still possible to speak of dialogue and negotiations?

[Dayan] In recent days I have had several meetings with Palestinian and Arab deputies who were leaving for Tunis in order to meet with Yasir 'Arafat. I am certainly not shocked by that: We are well aware that the Palestinian delegation receives instructions from the PLO leadership. I told these people clearly that they must realize that the continuation of terrorist acts can lead to the failure of the entire peace process, with disastrous consequences for everybody, first and foremost for the inhabitants of the territories. Indeed in Israeli public opinion there is a growing demand to link continuation of the negotiations to a halt in terrorist attacks, or at least an effort in that direction by the same Palestinian leaders sitting opposite us at the negotiating table. And that is a request to which we pay a lot of attention.

[De Giovannangeli] Mr. Dayan, straight off the top of your head: Do you still think it is possible to achieve a just and stable peace in the Middle East?

[Dayan] Despite everything, I think it is. Much will depend on the decisions which the Palestinians make in the next few days. I have no lessons to teach, but I would like to say one thing to them: Neither we nor you have any alternative to dialogue. You are looking at a government which is prepared to pay a price in order to reach an agreement. If you think that radicalizing your position can serve any purpose, you are mistaken. Because if this government fails in the peace process, it will be replaced by a more extremist one from which you will not succeed in wrenching any concessions.

Rabin Answers 8 Motions on Internal Security Situation

TA0804184193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear today that he wants the closure of the territories to continue for the time being as a most effective immediate measure to deal with terror. [passage omitted] The prime minister was speaking in the Knesset, where he answered eight motions for the agenda on the internal security situation—motions that were all passed on to a committee. Tzvi Pantanowitz reports: [passage omitted]

The motions for the agenda were referred today to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by a huge majority. Clearly, the Knesset members had had their say and wanted to go home to enjoy the rest of the holiday.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Security

TA0804105293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0948 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a special Knesset session convened to debate the security situation —live]

[Text] I am happy that the Jewish tradition has given us holidays every few months, when people can be happy, enjoy themselves, forget their problems, and hope for a better future. It is a pity that we are convening here today during the holiday. Nevertheless, despite what has been said here, I will try to maintain the festive atmosphere. First, I would like to send from this podium heart-felt greetings to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, Border Policemen, the Israeli Police, and the other security forces, who day and night stand guard over the State of Israel—along the borders, inside the territories under our control, and inside Israel. I would also like to congratulate Knesset Member [MK] Bibi Netanyahu, who has just given his maiden speech as head of the opposition. I wish him long service as head of the opposition.

In reference to the issue at hand, I believe that some of the MK's who ignore the unpleasant reality, which is that among us and the Palestinians—by which I mean the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—there is a sharp confrontation, which has gone on not for five years, but for much longer. The confrontation has changed forms, but the main issue—over which there are differences of opinion, and that is legitimate—is the question of a solution: to annex some 2 million Palestinians living in the territories and make them residents of Israel against their will, and against my will, or to find a path to coexistence while maintaining the Jewish character of Israel as the state of the Jews, in which non-Jews also reside. There is a legitimate dispute over that issue. The people decide from time to time, and will decide when it becomes a concrete issue and a solution is called for. In the current circumstances, and I hope they will continue, we are in the midst of peace negotiations as part of an agreed upon format—which to me is not ideal, but a Likud-led government decided on—presented in the invitations to the Madrid conference, under which we are conducting direct negotiations with the inhabitants of the territories on a two-stage solution. I believe that this government will continue this format—although it is not ideal—while perhaps stressing different nuances deriving from the change in approach over what should happen in the distant future. That does not necessarily mean a Palestinian state. I am opposed to its establishment. I believe other solutions can be found when we make progress in the two-staged approach. The current problem, that which concerns the public, and I say that from this podium, is the escalation in terror. I will not cover things up or ignore that situation, not that I accept your explanations about why it has taken place.

Why has there been an escalation? It is the outgrowth of a conflict that has yet to be dealt with at the core. We will participate in political negotiations to resolve the conflict, but we will continue fighting terror. I am not sure that a political solution will completely rid us of terror. Look what is happening in the Arab states where there is no dispute between two completely different entities. Is there no terrorism within the Arab states or between them? I therefore differentiate between a solution to the

conflict and the war against terrorism. I have no doubt that the closer we come to a solution of the conflict, and we will reach it, the motivation to perpetrate terror will be reduced. I am at least hopeful of that. I would like to explain the moves taken by the government. I am sure developments, which peaked in March, called for steps to immediately end a feeling of loss of personal safety by parts of the Israeli public. I do not ignore what happened. In general, if you want to solve a problem, you first have to admit it exists. Therefore, the government made the following decisions: In addition to the closure of the Gaza Strip, it approved a closure on Judaea and Samaria to prevent 110,000 to 120,000 Palestinians residing in the territories from working in Israel because their dispersal around the various places of work is responsible for the feeling of lack of security. The majority who participated in the knifings within Israel were not known to security services as terrorists. There was therefore no choice but to form the indiscriminate separation because we did not have prior knowledge who will perpetrate such an act. I believe the closure is aimed at establishing better separation, although not all at once and unlinked to the political process. This is to give most of the 5 million inhabitants of Israel, Jews and Arabs alike—most of whom live inside the Green Line and Greater Jerusalem, which will forever remain within Israeli sovereignty and Israel's united capital—a feeling of security. Eight days is a short time, but we already feel the change in atmosphere.

We knew that imposing this closure would cause hardship among the Palestinian residents of the territories, and that the danger to the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, to the IDF soldiers and policemen would increase. Meanwhile, there has also been a drop in violence there. However, by the very act of separation; or, as I was told by the commanders of the Central Command—by the very fact that 70,000 unemployed Palestinians were confined to Judaea and Samaria for a prolonged period—could lead to distress. We sent in reinforcements to give more security to the residents of the territories, primarily to the Jews but also to the Palestinians because their security is the government's responsibility. I hope that the closure will be continued, and the government will decide on this next Tuesday [13 April]. I will not specify for how long because the closure, which primarily and above all stemmed from a need to restore the sense of individual security to 99 percent of Israeli citizens, has, in my opinion, created an opportunity to resolve additional problems which affect the Israeli economy and society. There is no reason that out of 113,000 construction workers in Israel, 70,000 have to be residents of the territories. Let us go back to having Israeli Jews and Arabs building Israel. Anyone looking at the situation in construction, especially from Hadera northwards, will see that the contractors have adapted to the circumstances. One can see Israelis proving that they are capable of working, building and achieving impressive accomplishments. We can resolve part of our most grievous social affliction—unemployment. Why should there not be 20,000 or 30,000 Israelis working in construction? I know that this cannot take place overnight. Let us return to being both builders and farmers, who are less dependent on the residents of the territories for their labor. Let us first solve our own problems and then look after them. They also have a solution and that is coming to sit down at the negotiations table. Today, I have a clearer conscience regarding them. Because there is a way to resolve the problems based on the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference and making progress in two stages. Let them attend the negotiations if they want to terminate the suffering of those they represent.

Several proposals have been raised here. I would advise the new chairman of the opposition to consult with the former justice minister about the ramifications of any legislation which rules that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, or on certain issues. [catcalls]

All of you know which government changed the Emergency Regulations from 1945. You know which amendments were introduced following the High Court of Justice's ruling during the intifadah, much to my displeasure as defense minister at the time. The question then and now remains whether the Israeli Knesset should make a decision and tell the Supreme Court that it has no jurisdiction regarding certain issues in the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [catcalls]

I do not wish to engage in nit-picking or blood reckoning, especially not during Passover; since, that is also something I could do with some of those sitting here. I would like to say that distress and the security exigency effected a separation in order to guarantee security, because without separation there will be no individual security. I was forced to see that the sharper and more complete the separation the faster security will be restored. I make no pretense to guarantee hermetic security because there is no such thing as hermetic security against terrorism, but we can significantly reduce the feeling of individual danger. Therefore, today there is an opportunity to join the two issues: to restore the sense of personal security and also go back to building Israel with more than just words, but by actually joining the construction industry and other fields. We do not need Thai replacements, although I realize that we may have to bring in foreign experts—if there are not enough Israeli professionals—to absorb tens of thousands of Israelis in the construction industry, but this is only to help absorb Israeli workers, and I believe there are already enough experts here for that, because this is a process. The real problem is why someone does something?

Third, I hope that the peace talks will be resumed in order to resolve the conflict and this does not in any way come instead of the war against terrorism.

Although I cannot be certain, it appears that some of the Palestinians have a kind of feeling that in the wake of what they perceive—and I will not point to the reasons

for this because you know them just as well as I do—as a sense of Israeli confusion.... [changes thought] They think that if the Iraqi Scud missiles unnerved the civilian population then their knifing attacks have also sowed confusion. The repercussions of the Scud missile attacks are evident today in the wild chase after surface-to-surface missiles conducted by countries from North Korea to Iran, Syria, and Libya. It left a strong impression. Perhaps some of them delude themselves into thinking that the knifing attacks will scare us. It takes two parties to make peace. They are not doing us any favors by coming to the negotiations table, nor are we doing them any favors. Real peace can only result from the joint interests of both parties. Therefore, I look ahead in the belief that we can implement the measures we have begun implementing in a phased process—because this can not be carried out in one fell swoop, things that have taken root over 25 or 26 years such as dependence on cheap, non-Israeli labor cannot be erased at once. If we manage to guarantee security, get our act together, and solve the problem of unemployment they will also attend the peace talks.

In the holiday spirit, I ask the members of my own faction, as well as those from the factions submitting the motions, not to start voting on them now but rather bring them all for discussion before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Begin, Likud Members Reject Netanyahu's Proposals

TA0904115193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin has rejected proposals to fight terrorism made yesterday by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. MK Begin said a number of the proposals were brought up during the tenure of the last Likud government and rejected.

He also said that he was totally opposed to Netanyahu's suggestion to reduce the authority of the Supreme Court.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that several other senior members in the Likud have rejected Netanyahu's proposals.

In a radio interview this morning, MK Begin also criticized the intention to include Faysal al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation. He said that this underscores Israel's willingness to give in to the demands of the terror organizations.

Baraq 'Satisfied' With Closure Results

TA0804171693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Report by Ilan Lazarovich on remarks of Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, after an IDF administration officers graduation ceremony on 8 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lazarovich] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq is satisfied with the results achieved by the territories closure to date. He believes the closure can be sustained, although it cannot totally eradicate terrorism.

[Baraq] We can continue the closure as long as necessary, although it obviously cannot be sustained for months. So far, the closure has achieved very good results in separating Palestinian workers from Israeli employers and in halting the spate of stabbings and other attacks. I think that while we have no absolutely guaranteed miracle cures, it is nevertheless a good thing, and we will sustain it for a while longer.

[Lazarovich] In addition to the closure, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently sent crack units into refugee camps and increased the number of observation points. Lt. Gen. Baraq believes these measures will likewise fail to totally eradicate terrorism.

[Baraq] These measures contribute to greater security in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and to more efficient war on fugitives. They have shown results, but as I said before, there is no panacea. I do not want us to delude ourselves that our beefed up presence in the territories will put an end to terrorist attacks.

[Lazarovich] Referring to the farming work done these days by male and female soldiers, the chief of staff said the IDF has always taken part in national tasks, and it will again offer its help at a time when farming jobs need to be manned. Lt. Gen. Baraq believed, however, that less Army troops would be assigned for this purpose in the future, because more Israelis would take on farming work so as to part with Palestinian labor.

Accused American Hamas Activist Agrees to Plea Bargain

TA0904105893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Apr 93 p A4

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The military prosecution and the attorney of one of the four American citizens accused of aiding Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have agreed on a plea bargain.

Attorney Jawad Bulus, who represents Muhammad Jarrad, a U.S. citizen indicted by the Ramallah military court has reached an agreement with the prosecution that his client would plead guilty to the charges against him, and would be sentenced to a prison term of several months after which he would be sent back to Chicago.

One of the reasons for the agreement in principle to the plea bargain is Jarrad's medical condition. He suffers from heart trouble. Since his arrest on 23 January Jarrad has been under medical supervision and has even been hospitalized several times in the Prison Service Authority's clinic in Ramla prison.

Muhammad Jarrad was arrested after arriving in Israel from Chicago. According to the charges against him, he met with Hamas activists in the West Bank from whom he was supposed to receive details of residents sought by the security forces and of Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon. The charge sheet accuses Jarrad of working in the service of Hamas. Attorney Bulus stressed that the deal had not yet been signed.

Yesterday, a charge sheet was issued against a fourth U.S. citizen of Palestinian origin, who was arrested approximately three weeks ago on suspicion of having worked for Hamas. The charges against Anwar Hamdan include holding contacts with Hamas activists in the West Bank. HA'ARETZ learned that a plea bargain could also be possible in the case of Anwar Hamdan.

Four Americans of Palestinian origin have been arrested in Israel. Two of the major figures are Muhammad Jarrad and Mahmud Salah, who is charged with more serious offenses.

In addition to the four U.S. citizens over 25 residents of the territories have been arrested in connection with this case. They have all been charged and some of them are being held in administrative detention.

Hamas Squad Uncovered, 18 Detained for Attack, Car Bomb

TA0804152693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad has been uncovered and its 18 members, who operated in Judaea and Samaria, have been detained. Two senior wanted men are among the detainees.

The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad members are suspected, among other things, of having carried out an attack near the village of Buruqin two weeks ago, in which serviceman Gitay Avisar was killed and two other soldiers were wounded. They are also suspected of having planted a car bomb—which was found in time—in Ramat Ef'al.

Further Incidents of Violence Reported

TA0804170093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Thirteen-year-old Rai'dah al-Qara'i was shot in the head and killed in the Gaza Strip township of Bani-Suhaylah. Local residents said she was struck by soldiers firing at stone throwers. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of her death.

In a parking lot opposite the National Police Command in Jerusalem, a Jew shot and moderately wounded an Arab laborer. The reason for the shooting is still unclear. The shooter and the wounded man's associates were detained.

Near al-Zahiriyah, stones were thrown at an Israeli car, slightly injuring a child passenger in the head. She was treated on the spot and the car continued on its way.

An Arab youth suspected of starting a major fire near Kibbutz Ma'ale Hahamisha last year, has been captured. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the suspect, a 17-year-old resident of the village of Qatannah, which borders on the kibbutz, admitted and reconstructed the deed. Thousands of dunam of forest land, an orchid hothouse, and a poultry coop went up in flames in that fire.

Youth Wounded in Gaza

TA0904134293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In disturbances, which took place near Falastin school in the Gaza Strip, a 17-year-old youth was shot in the head and moderately wounded. The body of Ziyad al- Maliki, a 27-year-old resident of the Sabra neighborhood, who had been kidnapped several days ago and murdered by masked men was discovered in Gaza city. The 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam squads assumed responsibility for the murder. [passage omitted]

Arab sources reported that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has expropriated five dunams of land close to the village of 'Abasan near Khan Yunus. The IDF has begun building a military outpost there.

Ben-Eli'ezer Defends Selling of Apartments in Golan

TA0904072593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] The campaign to sell apartments in Qatzrin was a huge success. Your coalition partner, Meretz, is attacking the campaign in the midst of negotiations over the future of the Golan Heights. Meretz says we are provoking the Syrians.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I will not hold a debate with Meretz over the air waves. I will only say that the sales campaigns throughout the country have been a huge success. According to the government's basic guidelines, Qatzrin and the Golan Heights are a preferential security area. No building or sales restrictions have been imposed there. If I am not building there at the moment it is because I do not have a budget for it, but if there are apartments available there, I have a commitment to sell them. You cannot make declarations and at the same time freeze the situation. Second, who decided what character settlement on the Golan Heights will take?

Should I hand out presents right at the outset of negotiations by signalling to the entire world that I am putting a freeze on already built apartments? Who said the settlement with Syria will be at the expense of Jews, and that Jews will no longer go on living on the Golan Heights?

[Zissowitz] Will your ministry support the building of new apartment buildings in Qatzrin?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I repeat, it is true that we are at present at the outset of negotiations, in which quite positive signals are being made, but we have still not discussed the character, the framework, or anything else seriously. We hope that the negotiations will not only continue, but that an agreement will be reached. At present, we trying to sell the backlog of apartments. By the way, a large part, if not all, of those who are buying the apartments are Golan Heights inhabitants who are living in poor conditions and are waiting for those apartments. So why the outcry?

[Zissowitz] You declared that you promise to support a new neighborhood in Ma'ale Adumim.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Ma'ale Adumim is part of Greater Jerusalem. It was declared as such and there are no restrictions imposed on it.

[Zissowitz] Naturally, there is no disputing that, but will you make a similar declaration about setting up a new neighborhood in Qatzrin?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I repeat that what I am currently dealing with is not declarations. I am dealing with a situation in which I am selling available apartments to the people of Israel and especially to those living there.

[Zissowitz] By the way, what discounts are you giving to buyers. What is the government losing on the sale of each apartment?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The government has already lost a great deal. There are several hundred apartments available there, no more than that at this stage. We are losing between 10 and 15 percent on the sale of each apartment.

[Zissowitz] The government still has a very large reservoir of over 20,000 apartments throughout the country.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I am quite pleased with the sales campaign. We have so far sold 12,000 units. It is true that we dropped the price, which pleases me. One third is going mainly to local residents, who are young people. I am pleased that another third goes to new immigrants, and that the rest is usually sold without our intervention to people looking for a better quality of life. They are keeping their jobs and buying new apartments.

Afghanistan

General Dostam Envoy Comments on Peace Moves

NC0904083093 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Mar 93 p 12

[Interview with Haji Mohammad Mohaqqeqi, member of the Central Council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Islamic Unity Party, and the special emissary of General Rashid Dostam by unidentified SALAM correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [SALAM] Do the people of Afghanistan believe in federalism, an idea that is being bandied about so much?

[Mohaqqeqi] The people in northern Afghanistan believe in it.

[SALAM] Mr. Mohaqqeqi, why are you so emphatic about the people of Afghanistan? Do you represent all Afghan people?

[Mohaqqeqi] Even though the National Movement of the North [founded by General Dostam, who toppled Najibollah] governs in the north, its installations embrace all of Afghanistan.

[SALAM] Why do you not agree to a referendum? Statements and the performance of the National Movement of the North as well as the approach of General Dostam indicate that any kind of referendum or plebiscite will be opposed.

[Mohaqqeqi] When have we opposed a referendum? All our efforts are directed toward a referendum and we do not fear the opinion of the people at all. The problem lies with the ruling powers, who brought an incorrect formula from Peshawar. We are opposed to that formula, which was concocted and fabricated by foreigners. Our formula is based on participation of all the Afghan nationalities and a government structure. Whoever is elected by the people will be accepted.

[SALAM] Will you honor the will of the people? For example will you lay down arms today if need be?

[Mohaqqeqi] If others will lay down their arms, we will do so as well.

[SALAM] The problem is that is what they all say.

[Mohaqqeqi] Why should we lay down our arms when others refuse?

[SALAM] It was expected that with the arrival of the Iranian ambassador, efforts toward peace would be stepped up. However, judging from the reports received, the Hezb-e Wahdat has not been as cooperative as it was in the past with regard to peacemaking.

[Mohaqqeqi] We are very grateful to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to us in our 14 years of jihad and the people have also accepted us. But recently Iran has been raising slogans in favor of the Supervisory Council.

[SALAM] Why did General Dostam go to Islamabad and what formula did he bring from there?

[Mohaqqeqi] We do not know what came of his trip. The invitation came from Pakistan. He was also invited to Saudi Arabia, probably to propound a general plan concerning the factions. All the factions and their representatives were invited.

[SALAM] So did General Dostam go to Islamabad to follow up the plan propounded in Saudi Arabia?

[Mohaqqeqi] Perhaps.

[SALAM] In fact, you are seeking to open up a front which Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are in the process of activating.

[Mohaqqeqi] We are not setting up a front against any faction and we act on certain formulas which are acceptable to our people. If the Islamic countries were to give us a plan we would assess it. If it conflicted with our formulas we would not implement it. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] If Afghanistan is forced to accept UN forces in the country, from what country would you like them to come?

[Mohaqqeqi] We would try to see that they were from Islamic countries.

[SALAM] What is the relation between your movement and the largest opposition movement in Afghanistan, namely, Hekmatyar's party?

[Mohaqqeqi] Of course until recently there was no concurrence between Hekmatyar's party and the National Movement of Afghanistan. With the recent meetings that took place between the two sides, we do not have any major differences with Hekmatyar. If I do not describe our ties with Hekmatyar as friendly, at least I would not call them hostile.

[SALAM] Hekmatyar has accused you of killing Shiites and shedding blood.

[Mohaqqeqi] The movement was accused by Hekmatyar but we have now made peace and we do not speak against one another.

[SALAM] How will you reconcile this contradiction on the Afghan scene? On the one hand you say that Hekmatyar has wholesome and sensible relations with you. On the other hand, he is the number one enemy of General Rashid Dostam and is the root cause of all these clashes. He wanted the militia forces led by Rashid Dostam to leave Kabul, which Borhanoddin Rabbani did not accept, and this led to the outbreak of war in Kabul. You also have hostile relations with Rabbani, as

you believe that he has not come to power by popular vote. How do you justify this paradoxical friendship and animosity?

[Mohaqqeqi] Hekmatyar was not Rashid Dostam's enemy and he was the first to write to Dostam supporting his northern control. We even showed his letter addressed to Dostam on television.

[SALAM] Hekmatyar has denied this.

[Mohaqqeqi] We read out his letter on radio and television and the people saw that the real animosity is between Hekmatyar and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. The latter is responsible for all the wars and killings and he does not consider Hekmatyar a real human being.

[SALAM] How do you view Hekmatyar?

[Mohaqqeqi] I see him as a staunch Sunni Muslim and such people do not cause any harm to Shiites. Hekmatyar's faction has a healthier approach to Shiites than any other faction in Afghanistan. For example, if you visit Hekmatyar's base you will see Shiites, Uzbeks, and Sunnis coexisting peacefully. We do not perceive any animosity between Hekmatyar and Dostam. The real differences are between Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Hekmatyar, as Mas'ud is responsible for all the crimes in Afghanistan.

[SALAM] Hekmatyar attacked Kabul for a week with a volley of missiles and said that this volley would continue until Dostam's forces departed from Kabul.

[Mohaqqeqi] He wanted to fight Mas'ud and used this as a pretext.

[SALAM] A pretext that cost a thousand civilians their lives?

[Mohaqqeqi] When Ahmad Shah Mas'ud carries out a bombing, it results in destroying many houses and he also attacks with missiles. This should also be kept in mind.

[SALAM] This means that the people should pay the price of this animosity?

[Mohaqqeqi] It is after all a war, between Hekmatyar and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and between Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

[SALAM] Do you think you can forge close ties with the Saudi Government?

[Mohaqqeqi] Saudi Arabia wishes to exert influence in Afghanistan and does not have the same approach as Iran. On the one hand it offers its resources, and on the other it tells Sayyaf to attack the Shiites and Uzbeks.

[SALAM] How are your relations with Pakistan?

[Mohaqqeqi] The movement has excellent ties with Pakistan. The Pakistanis visit us and wish to have cordial ties with us.

[SALAM] Ostensibly, a large number of Pakistani generals are present among you and the Movement of the North. Is this true, and what is their number?

[Mohaqqeqi] Yes it is true; they are present in large numbers.

[SALAM] We received the news that 60 U.S. commandos arrived in Pakistan and entered Jalalabad and parts of Afghanistan.

[Mohaqqeqi] They will not gain anything by interfering in Afghanistan. The British intervened twice, as did the Russians; now it is the turn of the United States.

[SALAM] What talks did you have with the Iranian officials? What did you discuss and what was the outcome?

[Mohaqqeqi] Our talks were at the Foreign Ministry level. It would be difficult to attribute any specific outcome to the talks. The Iranian Government has, in the presence of its deputy foreign minister [as published], recognized Borhanoddin Rabbani's government officially.

[SALAM] What message do you glean from the Iranian officials when you do not recognize Borhanoddin Rabbani's government officially?

[Mohaqqeqi] This is a contradiction on the part of Iran. [passage omitted]

[Mohaqqeqi] The Iranian Government had invited us, Shiites, to cooperate with it, but since we consider Rabbani's government to be an anti-Shiite, Wahhabi one we could not cooperate with it.

[SALAM] What is the best role that you perceive for us in Afghanistan?

[Mohaqqeqi] We expect Iranian officials to be on the side of the oppressed, the Shiites and the Uzbeks. If they really believe in support for the oppressed they should stand alongside the oppressed and not give the seal of approval to Rabbani's government.

[SALAM] In general, has Iran's policy been successful with regard to Afghanistan?

[Mohaqqeqi] We consider Iran's policy a little hasty. Even the Americans, who have sustained Borhanoddin Rabbani, have not officially recognized his government and are exercising caution. Iran recognized them immediately, trampling on the rights of the people.

[SALAM] How do you perceive the future of Afghanistan?

[Mohaqqeqi] I see a bright future for Afghanistan if it has a federal government. But if everyone strives to prove the firmness of his factional and ideological stance it will result in a massacre in Afghanistan and culminate in a protracted war.

[SALAM] If it were decided that all should lay down their arms, will you be the first to do so?

[Mohaqqeqi] First it should be Rabbani, then Hekmatyar, and we will be the third to do so.

[SALAM] You expect a government to come down to the same level as two factions and lay down its arms?

[Mohaqqeqi] It is not a government but the Supervisory Council [shura-ye nezar]. We have done nothing but taken a step toward fraternal relations. The Supervisory Council has initiated the war against the Hezb-e Wahdat.

[SALAM] The government accuses you of treachery and secessionism.

[Mohaqqeqi] It is mistaken. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] If an international plan called for general disarmament in Afghanistan under the supervision of an international body and the holding of elections, would you abide by it?

[Mohaqqeqi] Such a time has not come. When it does, we will consider it.

[SALAM] It would not be an exaggeration to say that the people have endured more suffering since the establishment of the government of mojahedin groups than under the entire communist reign. Do you agree?

[Mohaqqeqi] We believe that in four months of Rabbani's government more atrocities have been perpetrated than in 14 years of communist rule.

[SALAM] If Borhanoddin Rabbani and Najibollah were to be tried, who would you convict first?

[Mohaqqeqi] First Najibollah, then Rabbani, although their crimes are equal.

[SALAM] If you were to impeach all the mojahedin leaders at a tribunal, who would your verdict be against?

[Mohaqqeqi] First Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, then Najibollah, then [former Afghan President Babrak] Karmal.

[SALAM] How will history judge the current situation in Afghanistan?

[Mohaqqeqi] It will be said that a nation waged a jihad for 14 years and when it eventually brought the most infernal government to is knees, ignorant rulers such as Rabbani, Sayyaf, and Mas'ud assumed power and made the Islamic nation wallow in blood. [passage omitted]

* Arabic Press Reports on Formation of Cabinet

93P50141A

[Editorial Report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic of 2 April 1993 on page 1 carries a report from Kabul and Islamabad that it has received a list of the cabinet members of Golboddin Hekmatyar government's. It says there are 29 names on the list and that the portfolios are distributed among all of the political parties. The paper says that current Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud will be the foreign minister and second deputy prime minister; former Prime Minister 'Abdol Sabur Farid (Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]) will be first vice president; and the post of third deputy will be held open for a representative from Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani's group, the Mahaz-e Melli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front] [posts as published].

The Ministry of Defense, according to AL-HAYAH, went to Jalaloddin Haqqani, governor of Paktia and a member of Sheykh Yunes Khales's wing of the Hezb-e Eslami. Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad, a member of the political bureau of the Hezb-e Eslami, received the Interior Ministry.

For the first time since the mojahedin seized power in Kabul, a senior officer of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam's Harekat-e Qowmi-ye Eslami [National Islamic Movement], Engineer Nasim Mehdi, was given a cabinet-level post.

Nurollah 'Ammad, Borhanoddin Rabbani's deputy in the Jam'iat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], told AL-HAYAH about Mas'ud's choice for the Foreign Ministry: "The problem now is Rabbani's acceptance of the ministers as a whole, not just the Ministry of Defense."

Sources close to Hekmatyar affirmed that the president-elect gave the Afghan president until Saturday to announce the cabinet, or he would proceed to announce it himself and carry out his duties from Chahar Asyab or Jalalabad.

AL-HAYAH of 3 April 1993 reports on page 1 from Kabul that Hekmatyar has amended his cabinet choices, selecting Sebghatollah Mojaddedi in the place of Jalaloddin Haqqani. Sources close to Hekmatyar ascribed this change to Mojaddedi's being upset over not being given an appropriate post, to say nothing of the fact that Shaykh Yunes Khales, Haqqani's patron, did not oppose the switch.

The same sources said that Engineer Nasim Mehdi, deputy commander of the Uzbek militias, would take the post of communications minister. They added that the ministers would form a council to supervise the government's work composed of 30-40 prominent personalities, headed by a mojahedin commander.

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic of 5 April 1993 published a list on page 4 of those selected for Hekmatyar's cabinet:

- Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, defense minister;
- Qazi Amin Waqad, internal affairs minister (Hezb-e Eslami);
- Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, foreign minister (Jam'iyat-e Eslami);
- Karim Khalili, finance minister (Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party]);
- Haji 'Abdol Qadir, labor minister (current governor

of Jalalabad and adherent of Yunes Khales);
- Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, mines and industry minister (Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] and current interal affairs minister);
- Engineer Fayzi Mohammad, water and irrigation minister (Hezb-e Eslami);
- Mawlawi Soltan 'Aziz, refugee return minister (independent);
- Haji Seyyed Mohammad, higher education minister (Ettehad-e Eslami);
- Mawlawi Jalaloddin Haqqani, minister of education and training (Yunes Khales's group);
- Faruq Azam, agriculture minister (Pir Ahmad Gaylani's group);
- Nurollah 'Ammad, communications minister (Jam'iyat-e Eslami).

The paper concludes by saying that the Ministries of Transportation, Revival and Rural Development, and Islamic Affairs and Endowment were given to the Harekat-e Eslami, and that six ministries remained unfilled, most important of which is the Ministry of National Security.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT of 5 April 1993 on page 1 cites "reports" that three of those selected by Hekmatyar for the Defense Ministry had declined the post and that Mojaddedi, who finally was chosen, said he would only serve with the consent of both Hekmatyar and Rabbani.

Bangladesh

Zia Warned Against Backing Anti-Fundamentalists

BK0804163693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Dhaka, April 8 (AFP)—Bangladesh's major opposition groups, in their first joint rally since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to power in 1991, on Thursday warned her against backing fundamentalists.

"It is a matter of shame that police mercilessly baton-charged anti-fundamentalist campaigners on Bangladesh's independence day and let me warn the prime minister that such actions can end her rule," Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the main opposition Awami League, told several thousand opposition supporters at a rally in downtown Dhaka.

The anti-fundamentalist meetings on March 26 and 28 demanded the bringing to trial of alleged collaborators with the Pakistani Army during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence. Bangladesh was once East Pakistan.

There was no government explanation for the police attack on last month's anti-fundamentalist rallies, but sources claimed permission had not been granted to hold the meetings.

Thursday's rally was held hours ahead of the start of a five-day ban on such activitivies for the weekend summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

In a joint declaration, the opposition—minus the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jatiya Party of deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad—welcomed the SAARC leaders and urged them to check the growth of fundamentalism in order to ensure the peace and prosperity of the region's one billion people.

Wajed, also parliamentary opposition leader, said people had overthrown Ershad hoping for democracy, peace and freedom, but government actions to "patronize fundamentalists" went against such spirits.

"We will take any step to protect the blood-soaked democracy and the spirit of Bangladesh's (1971) independence war," Wajed said.

The declaration noted that despite being democratically elected, the government, by its acts of "repression, violation of constitutional and fundamental rights" was ruling the country in an "autocratic manner." Because of "government patronage," the fundamentalists are being encouraged to undermine Bangladesh's independence, it added.

Police Clash With Muslim Protestors

BK0904082093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Dhaka, April 9 (AFP)—Police fought a pitched battle with several hundred Moslem fundamentalist supporters Friday as they held an anti-India demonstration defying a government ban imposed because of the weekend's South Asian summit, witnesses said.

The fundamentalists had staged an abortive march in January to try to reach India's Ayodhya town to rebuild an ancient mosque razed by Hindu zealots in December.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is due to attend the summit which opens here Saturday.

Indian Minister Urges Objectivity on Water Sharing

BK0804162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] India has reiterated its commitment to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and assured all cooperation toward fulfilling the association's social obligations like poverty-alleviation and boosting of trade for the benefit of member countries. This was conveyed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, to his Bangladesh counterpart Mr. Mustafizur Rahman at a meeting in Dhaka today. The external affairs minister asked Bangladesh to have an objective outlook on the issue of sharing of water of common rivers. He said that the problem should be tackled on the

basis of technical assessment regarding availability of water and actual requirement.

Zia Likely To Discuss Water Sharing

BK0804094993 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 5 Apr 93 p 1

[By Hasan Shahriyar]

[Text] Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to have exclusive meetings with the Indian prime minister, Narasimha Rao, and the Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, when they arrive in Dhaka to attend the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit beginning April 10.

Officials have said that bilateral issues will not be discussed in the summit. But when leaders meet separately they can hold talks on such issues. Often world leaders hold exclusive meetings during such events to discuss bilateral matters.

The issue of sharing the waters of the common rivers is likely to figure prominently during the talks between the Bangladeshi premier and her Indian counterpart. It has been learnt that they will also exchange views on the matters relating to the repatriation of Chakma [tribal] refugees.

The secretary-level meeting on the water sharing issue held in Dhaka last week concluded without reaching any accord on resolving the problem. The outcome of these talks could well strain relations between the two countries. The Indian prime minister had earlier pledged to resolve this issue. It was in accordance with his proposal given last year that so far two rounds of meetings on the water sharing issue have been held.

Diplomats feel that the two prime ministers should find out a solution to this vexed problem. During the past 20 years the issue has been discussed at expert-level and secretary-level meetings. But all the meetings failed to resolve the issue. This issue will remain unresolved unless it is taken up at the political level.

During Khaleda Zia's talks with Nawaz Sharif, the issue of the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh is likely to figure prominently.

It has been learnt that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will also hold separate talks with the monarchs of Nepal and Bhutan, and the presidents of Sri Lanka and the Maldives. During these meetings bilateral, regional, and international issues will be discussed.

Meanwhile, all formalities relating to the holding of the SAARC summit have been finalized. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman will receive the guests at the airport. Later, President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will host a reception at Bangabhavan [President House] in honor of the visiting dignitaries. A banquet will also be hosted in their honor at the Bangabhaban. A river cruise in the River Buriganga has also been arranged for the SAARC leaders.

India

Prime Minister's Talks With Thailand's Chuan Viewed

BK0804065593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Apr 93

[T.G. Nallamuthu Commentary]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who began a four-day official visit to Thailand yesterday set out to strengthen the warm and friendly ties at the very outset. Immediately after the ceremonial reception at the Government House, he went into discussions with the Thai prime minister, Mr. Chuan Likphai. An old friend of Thailand, having visited that country in many capacities, last as the foreign minister just a few years ago, he was soon among friends. He and Mr. Chuan quickly went over the ties that strengthened their bonds and reiterated that they had shared values which could be further invigorated by more political dialogue, commercial relations, and cultural, scientific, and technological exchanges.

As expected, the thrust of the discussions centered on economic cooperation. The two prime ministers noted that the Joint Commission established four years ago has resulted in increasing the two-way trade volume from a mere $400 million to over a billion dollars now. The two prime ministers exchanged ideas on how they are liberalizing and modernizing their economy, and launching projects to take their countries into the 21st century.

The two leaders also decided to talk about specific projects and the time frame to elevate the economic interaction to a higher level. But they left the details to be worked out by a joint committee of senior officials at a later date. The broad areas indicated include fisheries, agriculture, and possible cooperation in nuclear power generation. The trade turnover is expected to increase by 20 percent every year with the present one billion as the base.

Political discussions focused on the emerging democratic aspirations in Thailand and the trials faced by a mature democracy like India. Mr. Rao mentioned about the problems faced by India because of cross-border terrorism. At the banquet, he pointed out that with traffic in narcotics and terrorism getting mixed up democratic countries faced a very difficult situation. Added to this, they had to face (value?) judgments from other countries on human rights.

Both at the bilateral meeting and at the banquet, the two leaders touched upon current global [word indistinct] points. Near our home, it was Cambodia. Thailand, a front-line state, explained the current situation in Cambodia leading up to next month's proposed elections.

The two countries agreed that they could work together for the suffering Khmer people to have an opportunity to determine their own future.

Ministry 'Concerned' at Pakistan Arms Buildup

BK0804161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry has expressed grave concern over Pakistan's arms buildup and weapon-oriented nuclear programs. In its annual report for 1992-93 released today, the Defense Ministry said that Pakistan has continued with its program of militarization as well as weapon-oriented nuclear program while there have been worldwide trends of drastic cuts in defense spending. The report says that this is jeopardizing the security of the region and diverting resources which could be invested for the socioeconomic uplift of the subcontinent.

Troop Reduction, Replacement at Siachen Endorsed

BK0804114793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Making Sense of Siachen"]

[Text] After nearly a decade of fighting over the Siachen glacier complex, the Government has taken its first "innovative" step. The decision to reduce the number of regular infantry troops, and replace them with newly raised units of Ladakh Scouts should be welcomed. In the many years that have passed since the Indian Army first established its posts, the country has been witness to what is truly one of the most merciless wars ever fought. The casualty rates have been very high, largely on account of the climate, but the Army has doggedly stuck to its operational tasks. The resolve demonstrated has been moving in its heroism as well as its tenacity. But the question remains, how long can it go on like this? The dispute that created a war zone in Siachen is intrinsically connected to a settlement of the vexing Kashmir problem. And until that is achieved, it is difficult to conceive of a withdrawal from the current ground positions, for the simple reason that if the positions had to be occupied again, the enormity of the logistical effort would be truly daunting.

It is nevertheless obvious that some rationality has to be brought into the deployment, and years of research on high-altitude warfare be put to use. The fibre of the Indian jawan [soldier] has been proven beyond doubt, and the operational record is evidence enough. But it has been difficult to sustain the logistical aspects of the deployment, rotation of troops et al. Since this was proving to be a nightmare to organise, the decision to involve the Ladakh Scouts is welcome. Above all, it will save on the acclimatisation process, which accounts for major part of the troubles and casualties. By virtue of being native to the region, Ladakhi troops are better prepared to face the elements. Acclimatisation is far easier for the Ladakhi, hence, the pressure will ease considerably on the infrastructure needed to ensure that. There will then be the additional advantage of not having to arrange for the frequent rotations that are currently required. Traffic on the few safe routes to and from the posts, presently the cause of serious problems, will be considerably reduced. With Ladakhi troops efforts to support the positions will generally be easier.

To welcome the Government's decision, however, does not mean giving up the perennial query, what explains this decision? Internationally, there is substantial interest in the conflict over Siachen even if it is largely to learn more about (ultra) high- altitude warfare. There is also much international pressure to effect a withdrawal of troops because of the fear of escalation. The decision of the Government of India to reduce troops, however, must not have been taken on the basis of international pressure. For the simple reason that "goodwill gesture" and "confidence- building measures" are steps not understood by Pakistan.

Final Results for Tripura Elections Announced

BK0804042293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] In Tripura, the newly elected Left Front legislators are meeting in Agartala today to elect their leader. The new ministry will be sworn-in on Saturday. The front registered a landslide victory in the assembly elections winning a three-fourths majority. Meanwhile, all the results from the 60 assembly constituencies for which polling was held last Saturday have come in. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] alone bagged 44 seats. The RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] got two, and Forward Bloc and Janata Dal-B one each. The Congress-I secured 10 seats and its ally the TUJS [Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti] got one seat. One seat has gone to an independent.

Police Uncover Assassination Plan in Punjab

BK0804124493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The Delhi police have arrested two Punjab militants last night. With this arrest, the Delhi police claim to have unraveled a clandestine operation with international ramifications aimed at eliminating senior police and government officials of Punjab. A number of arms and ammunition and blank passports have also been recovered from them.

Five Arrested for Ayodhya Mosque Demolition

BK0804130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] today conducted a series of raids at several places in connection with the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya on 6 December last year. A CBI spokesman

said that five persons have been arrested in this connection so far. He said some incriminating documents and material have also been seized.

CBI Investigation Continues

BK0804160193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] today conducted a series of raids at several places in connection with the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya on the 6th of December last year. A CBI spokesman said that some persons have been arrested in this connection. He said some incriminating documents and materials have also been seized. The raids are still continuing.

In Uttar Pradesh, the CBI team raided several places in Faizabad, Gonda, and Kanpur and arrested the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MP from Gonda, Mr. Braj Bhushan. According to the state home secretary, the CBI also conducted a search at the residence of the BJP member of parliament, Mr. Vinay Katiar, in Ayodhya. Several documents and files were seized during the raids. Similar raids were also conducted in Gujarat.

In Maharashtra, the CBI today conducted raids at the houses of two Shiv Sena leaders in Aurangabad and in Thane city. A two-man team arrived from Delhi and assisted the local authorities.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi the BJP today sharply reacted to the CBI raids in different parts of the country connected with the Ayodhya incident and charged the government with flouting the democratic norms and constitutional rights of the citizens. In a statement, the party president, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said the raids were designed to harass all party workers.

Over 60 Held in Connection With Bombay Blasts

BK0904053493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] In Bombay, four more persons have been arrested in connection with the recent bomb blasts in the city. They include two persons who went to Dubayy in the middle of February this year to receive training in explosives and a third person suspected to have had a role in an abortive bid to blast a grenade near Bombay airport.

The city police commissioner, Mr. A.S. Samra, disclosed this to newsmen in Bombay yesterday. With this, over 60 persons have been held so far in connection with the bomb blasts.

The Maharashtra police also recovered some ammunition from (Kandalpara) village in Raigarh District where intensive combing operations were carried out following the blasts.

B.C. Joshi Appointed New Army Chief

BK0904080893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General B.C. Joshi has been appointed the next chief of the Army Staff. This was announced by the Defense Ministry in New Delhi today.

Lieutenant General Joshi succeeds General S.F. Rodrigues who will be retiring on 30th of June this year. Lieutenant General Joshi is currently the General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Western Command. Commissioned in the Army during December 1954, General Joshi commanded an armoured regiment in the western sector during the 1971 Indo-Pak operations. He was a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Award for Distinguished Service of the Most Exceptional Order.

Union Carbide Officials To Be Charged

BK0804161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The Bhopal district court today ordered framing of charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code against nine of the 12 accused in the Bhopal gas tragedy case. The case filed by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] had been pending before the court for the last one year. Important among those charged include the former Union Carbide India Limited [UCIL] chairman, Mr. Keshav Mahendra; former managing director and the present general manager of the UCIL, Mr. Vijaya Gokhale; former vice president in charge, Mr. Kishore Kandar, and UCIL itself. Giving his order today, the district additional sessions judge fixed 12 May for the recording of evidences of all the witnesses in the case. All India Radio Bhopal correspondent reports that three of the 12 accused, including the then chairman of the corporation, Mr. Warren Anderson, have already been declared absconders.

Paper Notes Dangers of Falling Value of Rupee

BK0704105693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 27 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Falling Rupee"]

[Text] The rupee has been devalued thrice in less than two years, but only once for the record. In 1991-92, it was brought down in two successive instalments—to raise the cost of the US dollar from Rs.[rupees] 20.5 in June to Rs.25.5 in July. Never mind the official estimate of the July devaluation by 17 percent; the fact is the cost of the dollar shot up by 24 percent. That year the rupee hovered around Rs.26 per dollar. It took a fresh depreciation in 1992-93, when dual exchange rates were introduced. The official rate was held around Rs.26 per dollar, so there was no devaluation, technically speaking; at this rate 40 percent of the imports (on official account) were covered. There was a second rate at which the balance of the imports (mainly on private account) were

effected. This one hovered around Rs.30 per dollar. Beyond the fiction of the stabilised official par value, the fact is that the weighted average cost of the dollar worked out at Rs.28.40 in 1992-93 or Rs 2.40 more than the year's official rate. The latest budget replaced the dual exchange rates with the unified one; this rate is determined in the market with Reserve Bank support. The current unified cost is Rs.31.42. Thus, with three devaluations the cost of the dollar has risen in the 22 months since June 1991 by 53 percent.

Is the Government willing to admit to this colossal depreciation? True, to the extent there has been a reduction in import duties, the rise in import cost stemming from dearer foreign currency has been mitigated. Even so, the net increase has been substantial and this has not a little to do with the inflation the country has witnessed since July 1991. In turn, high inflation, at the estimated average rate of 10 percent would have depressed the rupee even further than it did in 1992-93, but for the IMF loans used to cover the country's trade deficit.

This year, increases in administered prices, including those due on foodgrains, will add to cost-push inflation, while excise duty cuts, supplemented by import duty reductions, will strengthen aggregate demand, including import demand. The pull of the domestic market will thus slow down export growth. Even if the international price of oil does not rise, a steady depreciation of the rupee is on the cards; and if IMF loans are used to prop up the rupee and thus to pamper domestic demand, the economy will soon go bust. So, what will the promised increase in economic growth (with managed rupee devaluation) support: rising domestic consumption—or export growth to bring down dependence on IMF borrowings in the first instance and to reduce the external debt overhang thereafter? Does the Government seriously think that the country's huge external debt can be managed with coy foreign investment?

Power Corporation Makes 'Record Profit'

BK0804124093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The National Thermal Power Corporation [NTPC] has made a record profit of 815 crore rupees for 1992-93. This is 81 crore rupees more than last year. The corporation also made a record sale of 4,486 crore rupees, a 31 percent increase over the previous year. Besides, it added 1,721 megawatts new capacity. With this, NTPC accounted for 29.4 percent thermal generation and 22 percent of total power output in the country. This was stated by the chairman of the NTPC, Mr. Rajendra Singh, at a news conference in New Delhi today. Presenting the annual report of the corporation for the just-ended financial year, he said that the corporation secured orders worth 9.5 crore rupees for consultancy services from home and abroad. It completed the 400-kv transmission line project in Dubayy on turnkey basis. Mr. Singh said that Taraka, Badarpur, and Balco [plants] made a record generation and Ramagundam project achieved a remarkable improvement in performance.

New Foreign Investment Proposals Cleared

BK0704164693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The center has cleared 36 new foreign investment proposals for 140 crore rupees. The decision was taken by the Empowered Committee for Clearance of Foreign Investment proposals under the chairmanship of the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi, today. With this, the Committee has so far cleared proposals envisaging direct foreign investment of over 1,150 crore rupees.

Bank Announces Slack Season Credit Policy

BK0704130893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The 1 percent cut in the statutory liquidity ratio and the cash reserve ratio and relaxation in the lending limits are the highlights of the Reserve of Bank India's [RBI] slack season credit policy announced in Bombay today. The RBI has also announced a rehabilitated pacakage for small scale industries. But, it did not make any change in the bank lending rates recently lowered by 1 percentage point in the union budget.

Fire Razes About 300 Shops in Calcutta

BK0904033693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] In Calcutta, about 300 shops and stores were gutted yesterday in a devastating fire in the Mallick Bazaar area of the city. Twenty five fire tenders took four hours to bring the fire under control. The cause of the fire and the damage and the loss are yet to be ascertained.

Cholera Death Toll in West Bengal Rises to 161

BK0804163293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Calcutta, India, April 8 (AFP)—An outbreak of cholera in India's West Bengal state has claimed 161 lives and affected more than 10,000 people, a minister said Thursday.

Prasant Sur, the state's health minister, said authorities had launched operations on a "war footing" to prevent the water-borne disease from acquiring epidemic proportions.

Health teams have fanned out in the eastern state with supplies of halogen tablets and oral rehydration pills to distribute to residents, who are being told to drink water only after boiling it.

The state government has sanctioned 10 million rupees (333,000 dollars) for the purchase of medicines to treat

the disease, which health officials here say spread to the Indian coastal belt from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Sur said 12 people had died since Wednesday taking the number of victims since the disease erupted in late February to 161. Some 10,000 people have been afflicted in four districts besides Calcutta, the state capital.

Health officials say that a lack of hygienic drinking water in impoverished villages, where residents have to depend on dirty ponds and wells, has caused the spread of the disease, earlier diagnosed as gastroenteritis.

Patients Lose Sight at Canadian-Backed 'Eye Camps'

BK0804114193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Mar 93 p 1

[Excerpt] Aligarh—Some 50 persons have lost their eyesight after being operated upon in eye camps said to have been conducted with Canadian Government assistance in the villages of Aligarh. Attempts were made to suppress the incident which took place late in February.

The services of Dr N.K. Bhatnagar, superintendent of Aligarh's Gandhi Eye Hospital and the man who allegedly performed most of the operations, were terminated after the district authorities ordered a probe.

Twenty-nine persons lost their eyesight after being operated upon at an eye camp in Rajapur central village alone. District Magistrate D.K. Kotia had asked Dr V.K. Jain, the district chief medical officer, to conduct an inquiry.

Doctors at the Gandhi Eye Hospital, the referral hospital for inhabitants of Rajapur central, said the eye camps were being conducted in rural areas under the Jenkins Project with assistance from the Canadian Government.

A member of the Gandhi Hospital Trust told ENS [EXPRESS News Service] the trust had nothing do with the project and that the Canadian Government was spending huge amounts in Aligarh. [passage omitted]

'State-Sponsored Destruction' in National Park

BK0804120793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 93 p 9

[By Dilip Bisoi]

[Text] Soon, the majestic Bhitarkanika National Park in Orissa will see some new additions—a herd of bipeds! How else does one explain the State Government's recent bizarre proposal to the Centre that a tract of mangrove forests be cleared to house some 400 families of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

The proposal involves clearing of over 1,300 acres of reserve forest land in the Sunei-Rupei area. The ruling Janata Dal [JD] party in the state has had its eyes on this patch for long. In fact, what has surprised is the haste with which the Government has pushed the project since coming to power. In early 1990, soon after Biju Patnaik assumed charge in the State, the Government sent a posse of workers to level the forest.

The Forest officials resisted the scheme tooth and nail, but they were shouted down by the Government. It issued an official order for the same, vide memo no IOF (cons) 7/91 2914 F & E dated May 10, 1991 of the Dept of Forest and Environment, Government of Orissa, [GO] contrary to the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The GO caused irreparable damage to the park. Over 200 aces of precious mangroves were cleared. The Forest officials could only look on helplessly. Only the intervention of the regional office of the ministry of environment and forest prevented further destruction. The Bhubaneswar-based officials sent an SOS to the Centre seeking immediate intervention in the matter, and restraint on the State Government from mowing down forests.

The additional inspector general of forest directed the State Government to stop further work in the reserve forest. He also pointed out the provision of the Forests Act which requires permission to be obtained from the Centre for levelling forest land. This was not enough, though, and the ministry had to send numerous reminders before the State finally yielded. But the officials' victory seems to have been only momentary, and the JD Government is now trying another tack.

The Government submitted a proposal, for clearing the forest for human settlement under the Forest Conservation Act. And it is lobbying to push through the proposal. State Minister for Public Works Nalinikanta Mohanty is negotiating with the Centre, and his interest apparently stems from the allure of a vote-bank, as the immigrant Bangladeshis have apparently managed to enroll as voters.

If the project is approved by the Centre, there is no telling what harm it can do to the flora and fauna of the Park, besides doing irreparable damage to the fragile ecosystem. And environmentalists are sweating blood at the very thought of the storm that civilisation will unleash on Nature. The environmentalists' concern is understandable. Bhitarkanika, the second-largest mangrove forest in the country after the Sunderbans, is rich in rare species of plant, algae, fern etc, and plays host to rare and endangered species of reptiles like the estuarian crocodile, giant lizards and snakes like the king cobra and the python.

Moreover, the eastern part of the sanctuary, banking on the Bay of Bengal, is the site of a unique phenomenon. The exotic and endangered Olive Ridley turtles come in large numbers every year during their nesting season, and lay their eggs on a 35 km stretch on the Gahirmatha beach, the largest rookery in the world.

The park is also known for its bird sanctuary. Over 170 species including aquatic, migratory and resident birds have been spotted u the forest.

There can be no doubt that the destruction of a part of the mangroves, and the impact of the subsequent human habitation will disturb the ecological balance, to say the least. Even as it is, human demands have placed tremendous pressure on the Park. Activities like fishing, poaching, timber-smuggling and encroachment in and around the sanctuary have done nothing to help the ecosystem.

But all this activity is covert. If the Government's attempt to establish a human settlement inside the core area of the park comes through, it would be tantamount to sanctioning these nefarious activities. And the law enforcement agencies would be able to do nothing but gnash their teeth in frustration.

If the Centre has any pretence at serious environment-consciousness, it cannot afford to let this case slide. Bhitarkanika is an opportunity for the Narasimha Rao Government to prove its environment credentials. Or to expose its inability not only to bring an erring State Government to heel, but also to save one of the most valued bio-reserves from State-sponsored destruction.

'Critically Polluted' Areas Identified

BK0804115993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] New Delhi—The Government has identified 19 areas in the country including Najafgarh in Delhi, Vapi in Gujarat, Chembur in Maharashtra and Howrah and Durgapur in West Bengal as critically polluted areas, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Other such areas are: Parvanoo and Kalamb (both Himachal Pradesh), Dhanbad (Bihar), Talcher (Orissa) Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Korba (Madhya Pradesh), Manali-Madras and North Arcot (both Tamil Nadu), Bhadravati (Karnataka), Singrauli (U.P [Uttar Pradesh]), Pali (Rajasthan), Gobindgarh (Punjab), Greater Cochin (Kerala) and Digboi (Assam).

Stating this in a written reply to Mr Gopinath Gajapathi, the Environment and Forest Minister, Mr Kamal Nath, said that 19 areas have been identified by the Government in consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards.

Iran

Mubarak Criticism Part of 'Western Wrath'

LD0804162693 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The Egyptian president who, according to Western news circles, was in the United States to break the deadlocked Arab-Israeli peace talks, has criticized Iran for its opposition to any compromise over Palestine. Husni Mubarak, who has launched extensive efforts to prepare the ground for a second Camp David Accord, in his remarks in Washington also branded Iran as an obstacle in the way of the Middle East 'peace' talks.

The collapse of the eastern bloc which to many Arab countries meant the loss of an strategic supporter in their confrontation with Israel has provided the west with a golden opportunity to impose the illegitimate Zionist entity on Arabs. The West and the U.S. in particular as Israel's main allies are now tempting the Arab countries in the Middle East who feel they have been left alone in the face of the Zionist regime, to sit at negotiation table for a compromise with their usurper neighboe.

In case such a move succeeds, Tel Aviv will not only get access to neighboring markets but will also receive assurances of permanent security of its borders with Arab states. On the other hand, Arabs' agreement to give up their demands for liberation of Palestine and return of the first qibla of Muslims [reference to Jerusalem] in exchange for petty concessions such as return of a part of Israeli-occupied lands, could be the most important achievement for the west and the Zionist regime. This might also give Israel a free hand to completely suppress the intifadah (Palestinian uprising) in the occupied lands, something Israeli officials admit they have been unable to do so far despite use of force and violence.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the wrath of the west and its allies in the region has been aroused by the fact that stone throwing Palestinian youths have pinned their hopes on the Islamic Republic as an spiritul supporter especially when Arab governments are racing to give more concession to the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

The waves of accusation and label now being directed at the Islamic Republic in different forms all carry a same message for Tehran and that is it should give up support for intifada, and the best proof of this is the expression of dismay by the Egyptian president over Tehran's refusal to join the compromising camp.

Foreign Ministry Comments on Clinton Remarks

NC0904052193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Reacting to remarks by the U.S. President, the Foreign Ministry spokesman has pointed out that such remarks apparently are aimed at hiding the weakness of U.S. policy and the confusion it experiences in trying to deal with the complicated problems of the Middle East.

During a joint news conference with Husni Mubarak, Bill Clinton said: We will confront Iran because of its opposition to the Middle East talks and because of its support for terrorism.

Pointing to the Zionist regime's terrorist activities in the occupied territories and to the suppressive measures against the Muslims in Egypt, the Foreign Ministry

spokesman stated that the U.S. Administration, which feigns opposition to terrorism and support for human rights, backs such regimes.

Paper Views 'Confusion' in U.S. Foreign Policy

LD0804133893 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" Thursday editorialized on the recent talks of the American and Egyptian presidents accusing Iran of involvement in terrorism and causing instability and insecurity in the region.

It said both Bill Clinton and Husni Mubarak tried to use the "baseless accusations" against Iran as a means of "covering their own political deadlocks." However, none of them produced evidence to prove their claims.

It referred to the existing problems in the U.S. foreign policy such as strong influence of the Zionists in Clinton's administration. "Confronted with such a deadlock it is quite natural for the U.S. President to blame Iran for confusion of the American foreign policy in the Middle East."

Iran would not approve the peace negotiations since Tehran believed that Israel did not want peace but was only using the peace talks as a means of "legitimizing its position."

As for Egypt, Mubarak faces serious problems including revival of Islamic ideology among almost all Egyptians which has led Cairo leaders to confront the popular movements with "brutal and bloody repression."

Cairo regime needed to accuse a foreign power, like Iran, of intervention to justify its bloody suppressions, but such excuses are no longer convincing.

West's 'Commotion' Over Nuclear Plans Criticized

NC0804145693 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 16 Mar 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Iron-Clad Fist"]

[Excerpts] The movement that the West, led by the United States and instigated by the Zionists, has recently started against revolutionary Muslims, particularly Islamic Iran, demonstrates their constant apprehension, which has now entered a new phase. Most obvious behind the commotion that is the West's propaganda is the hidden fear that a mere belief has become real and definitive. Facing realities and incidents in the Middle East and throughout Islam, the West sees that it must accept realities; realistic observers in the West believe that confronting Islamic movements in the same way as in the 1980's is useless. [passage omitted]

The enemies who use every means and lever to terrify and threaten the Iranian Government and nation must be concerned for the future. This is the only explanation as to why they act as they do. And they anticipate that all the threats and intimidation will affect our Muslim nation and the combatant Islamic nations so that they can take their next steps more calmly and more extensively. Under these conditions, the Muslim Iranian nation should maintain its usual alertness, again consolidate the dams of resistance and determination, and inflict a blow with an iron-clad fist on all those who are waiting in vain to see our nation's disappointment and disillusionment.

Recent pressures by the European Community and the West, threatening to impose economic and military sanctions on Iran and even to use force to make the Muslim nation and Iranian Government give up its stances, can work if and when we are passive for any reason. In recent years we have implemented important economic projects with Western countries in a bid to improve our people's living standard. Our economic ties with these countries have involved us in many problems. But we should very decisively show these governments that continuing these relations and continuing the process of growth and development and our efforts to improve life for the Iranian people do not constitute our ultimate objective. We will never abandon our values to achieve these objectives. Our iron-clad fist does not aim to threaten others, but to display our determination to remain faithful to our Islamic values and national independence on the scene of international relations. Under today's conditions, this can be achieved only by relying on the people's strength and capability.

The Iranian Government should, under every circumstance, rely on the people's determination and support. Our people will never fear economic sanctions, no matter how strict these sanctions are. And the government will do whatever it deems correct—by calling on the people for help and by mobilizing all their resources—to overcome the problems that Western governments have created in recent months. By selling national bonds, the government can acquire the necessary credits to confront the economic pressure.

Governments such as the German, French, and British have been Iran's major trade partners in recent years and they have pocketed good profits from their economic agreements with us. These governments should not be allowed to pressure the Iranian Government or to use these agreements as political levers. There are realities that justify the spiteful and extremely deceitful policies of the West. There are 515 nuclear reactors and power plants operating in the world today and over 400 nuclear reactors and power plants under construction. Some 70 percent of these power plants are situated in 10 industrial countries and in the former Soviet Union. There are thousands of nuclear bombs and nuclear warheads in the hands of the United States, France, Britain, the former Soviet Union, Israel, and South Africa. Millions of tonnes of destructive chemical products are stored in the depots of Western governments. But no one says anything about the threat of all these or about the arsenals of

destructive arms. Yet so much hue and cry is raised about two peaceful, research power plants in Iran, which are still being built and have no technical military use. Isn't this deception?

Everything has become a tool in the hands of the satanic powers of the United States and the Zionist leaders. The UN Human Rights Commission is one of these tools. Each year thousands of blacks and red Indians are mutilated by the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, killed on the streets for the color of their skin. But the Human Rights Commission says nothing. Who leads the Ku Klux Klan? Isn't this horrific organization governed by the powerful faction in U.S. rule? In France and in many of the so-called civilized countries, a Muslim woman does not have the freedom to choose to wear Islamic dress. And the UN Human Rights Commission speaks about the absence of freedom for the minorities and for women in Iran. In the civilized West there is freedom to be licentious. But there is no freedom to be chaste or humane. The opposite applies to the Islamic system in Iran. Never in a healthy society can there be freedom for licentiousness, corruption, or prostitution. This is one of the things to be proud of in an Islamic system. The West and its Zionist mentors should know that their lies will never affect the spirit of the Muslim people of Iran and that pressure will never help them to achieve their goals.

Christopher's 'Illogical' Remarks Criticized

NC0904110493 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The United States: Its Illogical Hostility"]

[Text] "Iran is a law-breaking country which helps terrorist groups in various parts of the world and purchases and stores mass-destruction weapons." This statement by new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to senators shows the extent of Washington's rage and spite against Iran.

This is not the first time U.S. officials have resorted to such attacks in a bid to vent their pent-up hostility toward Iran. This is the tattered weapon that was constantly used during the 12 years of Republican rule and proved its inefficiency. Nevertheless, the new U.S. secretary of state resorting to the same repetitive phrase shows that the Democrats also have nothing new to say about foreign policy and that from the very outset they have had no alternative but to resort to the same old tattered weapon of repetitive remarks.

We should not take Christopher's remarks lightly, however, because this stance is not accidental. We should consider the roots of this statement. To do so, all the hostile stances that have been adopted during the past months against the revolution and the Iranian system should be studied very carefully so the root of this illogical hostility can be clarified.

What is being stated in Washington today actually is a repetition of the same request the Zionists are asking the world to fulfill and what they themselves are helplessly unable to do. It is for this very reason that what the Cairo regime, the coupist regime in Algeria, the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine, and U.S. officials are saying stems from the same root and pursues a common objective.

Christopher's remarks are nothing but a repetition of the angry allegations by Israeli officials, who want Iran to be identified as a "regional threat" and a threat to international peace and security.

Perhaps today the Zionists may feel proud that their wants and remarks are being repeated by U.S. politicians. But it is extremely disgraceful for a superpower to be pushed around by a bunch of Zionists and for the Zionists to be able to infiltrate the U.S. power structure and dictate their demands to Washington.

The truth is that the Zionists are bitter about the defeat of the Arab-Israeli compromise talks. It is precisely because of this that they believe only Islamic Iran and the world movement of Islam are to blame for the failure of Zionist efforts in the region and the world, since among the disgraced front of Arab leaders there has been no considerable resistance to Israel's blackmail and to the Zionist crimes.

It is extremely bitter and unfavorable for the Zionists to see that even though reactionary regimes have stooped down, anonymous Palestinian youths without any particular organizational backing are forcing Israel to stoop down with their stones and that they have defeated all the criminal policies of the Zionist regime.

Naturally it is by understanding the reality that Israel's defeat is actually the defeat of the United States and of arrogance in the region that one can better understand the reason for Christopher's rage and spite against Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry's strong stance regarding this is based on the above and also clarifies the fact that Christopher's recent remarks only indicate the confusion present in U.S. foreign policy.

Washington's new officials should know that the superpower era and the era of their hegemony—at least regarding Iran—has ended forever and that it also is approaching its end in the world of Islam. Whether the United States likes it or not, it has to accept the reality that we have an independent nation and system in Iran; that the nation and the officials that this nation has chosen adopt decisions independently; that the country's political decisions are made inside the geographic borders Iran; and that irrespective of what the spiteful Zionists do and any propaganda that they resort to, they will not be able to alter this special and valuable characteristic of our people. Therefore, it is better for them to speak sincerely and tell the United States that they have nothing more to offer than the Republicans in the foreign policy field, and that they, too, like the Republicans, are

facing confusion and isolation regarding the Islamic revolution and the world movement of Islam.

U.S. Reportedly Denies Visas to Iranian Athletes

LD0704130593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpts] A number of the country's sports champions and officials were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. [passage omitted]

Criticizing attempts by global arrogance to politicize sports, the president said: The fact that America by resorting to vain excuses refused to grant visas to our athletes is indicative of its fear and terror of the Iranian champions. They had nightmares about seeing the Islamic Republic of Iran's flag raised on their own territory. He added: They have made a mistake in politicizing sports, and I expect the world sports authorities to condemn this American action. This is another clear example of U.S. blackmail.

Remarking on the need for the government to pay attention to women's sports, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Women constitute one half of the country population, hence they must enjoy physical fitness and health to perform their heavy tasks. Women's sports facilities must be provided while adhering to moral codes [passage omitted]

'Malignant American Propaganda' To Backfire

NC0804113293 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Weekly Edition in English 31 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Chickens Coming Home To Roost"]

[Text] A common failing of both individuals and nations is to blame outside factors for one's own problems. The American government is today in such a dilemma and the title of it is "international state sponsored terrorism." This product was perfected in post-world war America and the macabre beauty of it is that some of its leading practitioners are today considered world statesmen of the highest, if slightly tarnished caliber.

Here the names Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger come immediately to mind. After inheriting the Vietnam War from the Johnson administration, these two proceeded to accelerate the pace of U.S. war crimes in neutral Cambodia. In the process they succeeded in upending Prince Norodom Sihanouk, empowering General Lon Nol and creating conditions that spawned Pol Pot. Pol by the way, was receiving U.S. assistance during the Carter White House years.

Of course, none of this history, i.e., the fact that U.S. machinations led Cambodia down the path to the hell it experienced throughout the 70s and the 80s, is ever mentioned today. William Shawcross tells the story poignantly and beautifully though in his book, "Sideshow," which recounts the story of the secret U.S. bombing of Cambodia known as "Operation Menu."

In the course of that action which lasted from 1969-1973, the CIA estimates that 600,000 Cambodian civilians lost their lives to American ordnance. But hardly anyone outside the areas that were carpet bombed knows anything about this crime. One startling example of an entire range of American exploits that inspires American foreign policy critic Noam Chomsky to label his country the world's number one purveyor of state terrorism. 600,000 dead people and all done in silence!

The head of the 15th of Khordad Foundation [which looks after the poor] has many lessons to learn from this. Iran is being pilloried every day at immense diplomatic and political cost, in large part because of the enormous bounty that institution proferred. Before that announcement the deed could have been done by a jack-booted British skinhead for 50 Pounds Sterling. Salman Rushdie has become a millionaire. Of course he is also dead meat the moment he steps from behind the curtain he and his British masters have drawn to defame Islam and Muslims. The likely culprit will be Mosad.

But our subject today is the dead meat that has been popping up today in America and the country has only itself to blame. For nearly 15 years now American media has fed the nation a steady diet of the phantom international Islamic terrorist web, when in point of fact whatever the Muslims have done has generally been on the order of defending themselves against aggression with the best means at their disposal. The likes of the stone throwers of Palestine and Lebanon's Islamic Jihad would be hailed as patriots anywhere in the world, if they were not Muslim. This represents a curious and deep seated prejudice.

Successive U.S. administrations have added fuel to this prejudice by fingering Iran as the source and inspiration for all that goes against its designs in the Middle East. Sometimes it gets ludicrous, as when the U.S. State Department recently accused Iran of financially supporting the freedom fighters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Anyone who knows the ABCs of the situation realizes the king of Arabia and the emirs of the Persian Gulf far outstrip any financial commitment that Iran has every right to make.

Here, pay close attention to the recent attacks at CIA headquarters and the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. These events might turn out to represent the point at which malignant American propaganda turns against itself. At least some of the American people will realize that those actions are simply the chickens coming home to roost from 40 years of American state terror perpetrated in the Muslim and Third World.

Of interest here is that the suspect in the CIA caper, alleged to be a Pakistani national seems to have evaporated. The Palestinians and Egyptians that have been arrested in New York have no known organizational affiliation. What motivates such deeds? Also note that despite all the hype concerning Middle Eastern rogue states, there is not a trace of state involvement, though Washington has striven mightily to invent some. They have finally had to even lay off the blind Egyptian Shaykh, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

There is a message here that the authorities do not want to leak; part of it is that nation's impotence in the face of people determined to exact the universally respected right of retaliation. There is also a plan to inter large numbers of American Muslims (Islam being the fastest growing religion in that country) if these incidents continue.

Remember the Japanese Americans of World War II. Also remember that amidst the tons of newspaper articles and television coverage of the assassination of then U.S. presidential candidate Robert Kennedy, you will find little more than zilch concerning the Palestinian refugee Sirhan Sirhan's motive. He was not insane but he was incensed that the Kennedy campaign foreign policy message was more fighter jets and military high-tech for Israel. It took him to an early grave. It is doubtful that the Clinton White House will learn much from any of this. What is certain is that the Middle East will continue to raise its bloodied but unbent brow in the heart of urban America. It will be done not in the name of terror, but of liberty, and freedom from tyranny—ironically, exactly like what the Founding Fathers perpetrated.

Commentary Says New York Explosion Mosad Plot

NC0704142693 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Mar 93 p 14

[Hoseyn Zia'i commentary: "The New York Explosion and Mosad's Role"]

[Text] Certain facts show that the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York was the product of extremely advanced and calculated political-propaganda activity by the Israeli intelligence organization, Mosad, and that it was linked with two very specific objectives:

First, to distort the face of Islamism in the world; and second, to preserve the strategic ties between Washington and Tel Aviv. For some time now, many of the leading ideologues at the Pentagon and in Congress have believed that strategic relations with Israel pose a serious threat to, and inflicted serious harm on, U.S. national and world interests. These ideologues have become advocates of a "balanced policy."

Recently, William Harrop, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, told Austria's DIE PRESSE: The United States has to drastically cut its financial assistance to the Zionist regime in order to reduce its own astronomic foreign debts. He added: The United States has to do this to save itself. This policy should be applied to even close friends and allies like Israel.

The Zionist regime receives $4 billion annually in financial- military assistance from the United States and a total of $22 billion in financial aid from the United States and Europe. Tel Aviv's dependence on this assistance, at a time when it is facing its most critical political-financial situation due to the Intifadah, is extremely significant.

On this basis, one of the reasons the United States and Europe are insisting on peace between the Zionist regime and the Arabs is to lift this financial weight from their shoulders.

This comes at a time when one political faction in the Pentagon claims that the U.S. confrontation with Islamists is not at all to the benefit of the United States and that Washington should pull itself back slightly from this situation.

The fact that a "balanced policy" has been advised in U.S.- Israeli relations shows that there is concern about Israel. Therefore, by carrying out the explosion in New York and by attributing it to the Islamists, Tel Aviv is trying to stabilize U.S. views in its favor and to achieve their two objectives.

The Zionist regime's intelligence-political policies are now geared at forcing world power centers to confront Islamism. Within this context, many of the propaganda-political plots against the Islamists are primarily the product of plots hatched by world Zionist networks that see to it that this issue is propagandized on a world level.

Highlights of Iran-Malaysia Joint Communique

LD0704125493 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—The following are the highlights of a joint communique issued simultaneously in Tehran and Kuala Lumpur at the end of an official visit to Iran by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohammad from April 3-6.

On the Middle East situation, the two sides emphasized their deep concern about the continuing tensions arising from unresolved problems of the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue and expressed their belief that there could not be a just and lasting solution to the problem until the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people were recognized. They condemned continued Zionist occupation of the Palestinian land, the Syrian Golan and other Arab territories including the Holy Qods. They also condemned the illegal expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland and demanded the full and immediate implementation of the Security Council Resolution no. 799.

Malaysia and Iran emphasized the need to prevent an accumulation of arms everywhere in the world, and reiterated their support for the early establishment of a new world

free from all types of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological ones.

On the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbs, both Iran and Malaysia strongly condemned the Serbian act of "ethnic cleansing" in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the non- compliance by Serbia and Montenegro and the Serbian irregular forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina of all relevant international resolutions. the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the restoration of peace in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in accordance with the U.N. Charter ensuring their sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

To this end, Iran and Malaysia also urged the Security Council to take immediate and necessary measures against Serbia and Montenegro including the use of force prescribed under Article 42 of Chapter VII of the United Nations charter with a view to ensuring its full compliance with the relevant resolutions particularly Resolutions 752 and 757 as well as to counter and deter further acts of external aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They also called for removing military embargo imposed on Bosnia.

On the issue of Afghanistan, both Malaysia and Iran welcomed the signing of the peace accord in Afghanistan on March 7, 1993 which demonstrated the willingness of the warring parties to put aside their differences in pursuit of a political settlement that would allow peace and stability to return to Afghanistan.

Malaysia praised Iran for hosting millions of Afghan refugees during 14 years of their jihad and its positive role in trying to establish peace in Afghanistan. Malaysia and Iran pledged their readiness to assist the return of refugees and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

On the Non-aligned Movement, the two sides reviewed the role of the movement of the non-aligned countries in the light of the dramatic changes on the world scene. They underlined the need for the movement to adapt to these changes in spearheading the developmental needs of Third World countries. In this context they reaffirmed their belief in the movement as a constructive and positive force in enhancing international understanding.

On human rights, Malaysia and Iran recalled that the first world conference on human rights was held in Tehran in 1968 and noted that the second world conference will be held in Vienna in June 1993. Malaysia and Iran agreed to cooperate and coordinate their positions at the forthcoming world conference to ensure that the issue of human rights would be addressed in all its aspects in a balanced and non-selective manner.

Both sides inspired by the principles of Islam emphasized the indivisible nature of human rights comprising civil, political, economic and cultural rights. They also reaffirmed their conviction that the right to development was an integral part of fundamental human rights.

On South-South cooperation, the two leaders underscored the need for countries of the South to continue enhancing ties in verious areas, including trade, economic, education and science and technology. In this regard Iran and Malaysia agreed to work together in contributing towards strengthening south-south collective self-reliance.

The two sides expressed disappointment by the lack of response of developed countries, which have failed to come up with clear and specific terms, regarding the new and additional financial resources required for the successful implementation of the various activities under agenda 21.

In this regard, Malaysia urged developing countries to participate in the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In so doing, it will strengthen the developing countries' negotiating position on financial resources needed for enviromental and development related projects and ensure the democratic govarnance of the GEF as well as its transparency.

On the economic cooperation organization, (ECO), Malaysia lauded Iran for its positive role in the development of the organization. with the inclusion of several countries of Central Asia in ECO, it constitutes an important economic nexus which will be crucial in guaranteeing the development and stability of the region. In this regard, both countries welcomed closer collaboration between ECO and ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations].

To strive for greater unity and cooperation among developing countries, both Iran and Malaysia expressed the need for developing countries to maintain a dialogue among themselves in order to promote solidarity to strengthen each other's efforts to advance themselves and to have a common response to the critical economic developments that are taking place in the world, especially the emergence of powerful trade blocs. Iran also expressed its full understanding of the initiative taken to establish the East Asia economic caucus.

The prime minister of Malaysia expressed his thanks and gratitude for the warm welcome and cordial hospitality accorded to him and his wife and accompanying delegation during their stay in Iran. Dr. Mahathir extended an invitation to President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Malaysia at a convenient time. The invitation was accepted by the latter.

UN Mission Calls For Withdrawal of Armenian Troops

LD0804132493 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 8, IRNA—The Iranian mission here Wednesday called for the withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijan.

A statement issued by the mission said clinging to armed forces to resolve disputes in the Karabakh region and the continuation of the current conflicts would tarnish the two Caucasian states' future.

It also expressed Iran's deep concern over the escalation of the conflicts in the Karabakh region.

Iran believes that the settlement of the Karabakh crisis and establishment of a just and honourable peace would be possible only through political negotiations while the international laws, sovereignty, integrity and stability of the international border lines are respected, it said.

The Iranian people and government are anxiously following the ongoing developments in Karabakh region and regard the continuation of the hostilities harmful to the good neighbourly ties of Azeri and Armenian peoples.

'Setback' in Iran-UK Relations Deplored

NC0804124193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Mar 93 pp 1, 15

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] TEHRAN—Another setback in Irano-British relations was recorded yesterday with the announcement of the cancellation of the planned visit of a high-powered delegation from UK's Chamber of Commerce, it was divulged yesterday.

The sources said that the visit by the British commercial and economic delegation was planned long ago for closer eco-trade ties between Tehran and London.

The Islamic Republic of Iran sent a message to the concerned persons to cancel the visit to Tehran, one source said.

The source told the TEHRAN TIMES that 20-man British delegation was due to arrive here in Tehran in the second half of April.

No reason for the cancellation was given by the official sources, but political observers here believe that the "hostile attitude of Britain against the Islamic Republic of Iran" in the United Nations could be a reason for sending word to London not to send the economic and commercial delegation, which was due to exchange views with the Iranian private and public sectors for exploring fresh avenues for improvement in reciprocal ties.

It has been noticed that during the last few years, Irano-British relations in trade areas have increased and it was expected that the planned visit of the British delegation would have opened the doors for bilateral cooperation wider.

When asked, one observer said, "No not at all, it will be Britain and not Iran who will lose after this cancellation of the British trade delegation trip."

"You know it's Iran's policy to have cordial relations with all countries on certain conditions including non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual respect," the observer said.

"Of course, Iran can fulfill its needs through other sources, but the trends in Irano-British relations adopted by London and Tehran during recent years have received setbacks one after another, for which none but Britain is responsible," he said.

Official Briefs UN Committee on Human Rights

LD0804111393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The delegation representing the Islamic Republic of Iran on the UN human rights committee in Geneva outlined our country's stands on human rights yesterday, and replied to questions on Iran's civil and penal laws.

The head of the delegation representing the Islamic Republic of Iran elaborated on the laws and regulations of Islam and the Islamic Republic that were ambiguous to the members of the UN Human Rights Committee.

For the past two weeks, the Human Rights Committee has placed the human rights situation in Niger, Iran, Ghana, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic on its agenda.

In view of the closing session of the committee, the remaining debates on the Islamic Republic of Iran have been postponed until the next session, to be held in Tir [month beginning 22 June] of next year.

Iran-Turkey Security Officials' Talks Detailed

Iran Not Behind Journalist's Killing

LD0704190293 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Iranian security officials in the first round of talks here today with their counterparts from Turkey denounced the allegations in the Turkish newspapers against Islamic Iran regarding the killing of a journalist last January.

They said Iran should be informed about investigations to trace the assassins of Ugur Mumcu killed in Istanbul last January, and added that any such baseless allegations should not be repeated.

The Turkish side replied that (?none) of the Turkish officials have accused Iran of having any connection with the Mumcu assassination.

The two sides also held talks on border security issues and stressed the need for implementation of the security accord reached earlier between Tehran and Ankara on halting any border crossing by the other side's opponents.

Meeting Ends in 'Cordial' Atmosphere

TA0904103793 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0950 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 9 (AA)—The fourth Turkey-Iran joint security committee meeting in Tehran ended in a cordial atmosphere, officials at the meeting said on Friday.

Riza Akdemir, Interior Ministry under secretary, heading the Turkish delegation, said the 3-day meeting ended in mutual understanding between the two countries.

Iran responded to documents submitted by Turkey on admissions of terrorists caught recently in Istanbul that they were taught assassination techniques in Iran by saying that more detailed information was needed to be able to investigate.

The committee also discussed measures to ensure border security and prevent smuggling and terrorism.

The next meeting of the committee, which was set up last September at the request of Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin, will be fixed at a later date upon the request of Iran.

Tehran Views Ozal's Visit to Turkic Republics

NC0604161193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary: "President Ozal's Visit to Five Central Asian Republics"]

[Text] President Ozal left Turkey yesterday for a 10-day visit to five former Soviet republics of Turkic origin—Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. Ozal arrived in Uzbekistan on the first leg of his visit and held talks with President Islam Karimov. According to a statement by the Turkish Government in Ankara, the objective of Turgut Ozal's first visit is to strengthen Turkey's relations with the Turkic republics in that region—from the Adriatic Sea to China.

Several political commentators have said that one of the important reasons behind President Ozal's visit is to promote the concept of pan-Turkism and establish unity among the 200 million Turkic peoples in the region. The truth is that the former Soviet Union's fragmentation and the subsequent disappearance of the communist threat from Turkey's border created an opportunity for Turkish officials to strengthen Turkey's political, economic, and cultural influence within the concept of pan-Turkism in that sensitive region by using racial and religious ties among the republics and the similarity of their languages. The issue will be clarified further if the principles of pan-Turkism, which provide for unity among the Turks; the secular system, which separates religion from politics; and the inclination of the Turkic republics to adopt the principles of Western democracy are studied. Everyone knows the West regards the spread of Islam in the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus and the unity of the Muslims in the world as a threat to their interests. In view of this, Turkey can be described as a country trying to use its influence on the Central Asian republics to become a bridge between Europe and the Islamic world. For example, Ankara has moved to act as a mediator in economic issues, hoping to gain from economic developments between the West and Central Asian republics. It has been trying to strengthen the West's economic influence on the new republics.

Turgut Ozal has arrived in Uzbekistan on the first leg of his visit. That country is one of the Central Asian republics rich in natural resources. It is also the largest cotton and silk producer and exports oil, natural gas, and ores. It is trying to upgrade its oil refining and machinery engineering industry. So, while holding talks with their Uzbek counterparts, the Turkish officials have taken care to emphasize the improvement in cooperation between Turkey and Uzbekistan in joint ventures in the industrial and economic fields.

Turkey has become an important trade partner and the main investor for the Turkic republics in Central Asia following the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the Turkic republics' declaration of independence in 1991. President Turgut Ozal's visit can be described as Turkey's second high-level diplomatic initiative aimed at the Turkic republics after Prime Minister Demirel's visit to Central Asia in 1992. As such, it is expected to prepare the ground for Turkey to increase its influence in that region.

Foreign Minister Receives Jordanian Envoy

LD0604220493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati received the Jordanian charge d'affaires to Tehran, on Tuesday. In the meeting, the Jordanian charge d'affaires submitted a written message from the Jordanian king—King Husayn—addressed to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati. Also, declaring Jordan's readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in supporting the oppressed people of Bosnia- Herzegovina at Islamic and international forums, the Jordanian charge d'affaires discussed with our country's foreign minister the international and regional situation and the poisonous propaganda of the arrogant and Zionist circles aimed at undermining the unity of Islamic countries.

Paper Details Work of Laser Research Center

NC0904103093 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Apr 93 pp 5,7

[Second of an unspecified number of installments of an article entitled "The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization: Programs and Plans"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In Iran experts started their activities in the field of laser technology in 1353 [1974]. The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO] runs the extensive Laser Research Center. One can rightly say that since 1368 [1989]—the beginning of a new phase of activities by experts in this field—significant progress has been made. It appears that more facilities and funds are needed to expand these activities.

In 1353 a small Laser Physics Group was formed at the IAEO and began limited activities. The group's activities and valuable research gradually expanded, and in 1368 it became the Laser Research Center. The center is now active in three fields: research, production, and support.

Fereydun Soltan-Moradi, deputy head of the Laser Research Center, said: The center's research section consists of various research labs that carry out research and implement the organization's research programs.

The center's production section also was created to meet the tasks and objectives set by the IAEO. It produces key lasers that are being used throughout the country in various fields. The center's support unit assists research and production.

The production section has one major production line for helium- neon lasers and carbon dioxide gas lasers, which are used for medical and industrial purposes.

The glass tube manufacturing unit, which manufactures tubes and glass parts for lasers, is operating with the help of the support unit. The optical unit manufactures optical laser equipment, while another unit manufactures mirrors, filters, and parts needed in this field.

The electronic unit manufactures all the electronic parts and equipment for lasers, while the technical unit produces mechanical and mechanical-optical parts for lasers.

Soltan-Moradi added: With some types of lasers, our experts manufacture all the necessary parts inside the country. Some raw materials such as glass and other parts such as resistance and transistor equipment, which are not economical to produce at home, are imported.

The Laser Research Center considers its main duty to be research in the field of identifying and manufacturing lasers. It has achieved considerable progress in this field and has employed experienced experts who have made new discoveries that can be used at the international level.

Soltan-Moradi said regarding this: The Laser Research Center has the following series of labs: the carbon dioxide gas laser lab, which forms the nucleus of the Laser Research Center; the nitrogen laser lab; the solid laser lab; the precision laser lab; semi-guided laser labs; and holography labs used for three-dimensional photography. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Laser Research Center's lab for polymer lasers, which conducts valuable research in the production of a type of valuable polymer, Soltan-Moradi said:

In this lab, the affect of laser beams on various types of polymers is studied. [passage omitted]

Lasers play a primary role today in science and technology. In Iran, too, there is a need for lasers in various industrial and medical fields. Officials have realized the significance of this, as well as the fact that we should reach world standards in this field and advance laser technology along with other sciences in the country. Experts say lasers have numerous uses, many of which are still unknown and imperceivable.

Soltan-Moradi added: Many youths fortunately are interested in this field, to the extent to which officials have introduced a course called advanced laser technology. Through this course we hope more experts will be trained in this field so we can meet the country's vital needs.

Sotan-Moradi added: Of course, with the mission that it has, the Laser Research Center has undertaken to expand this technology on a national level. So far it has been able to train a large number of experts.

Education is one of the center's duties, and students from the university and higher education centers apply to the center to participate in research and production and acquire the necessary know-how.

Sotan-Moradi then proposed that in view of the need to further acquaint youths with this field, a special course should be offered to high school seniors so they can learn about lasers and their uses and decide early on if they are interested in this field. [passage omitted]

At any rate, Iran should not continue to lag behind the developed countries in this field and should provide the necessary material and human resources to be able to meet the country's needs.

He added: As for the budget and facilities, during the past two years much attention has been paid to the Laser Research Center, but more such facilities and attention are needed.

Due to various considerations, the center should have contacts and cooperation with various scientific and technological centers at home and abroad. The conditions for establishing such contacts and cooperation have been created. Soltan-Moradi said that he is willing to cooperate in the various branches of this field with other institutions and higher education and research centers as well as with industrial and medical centers at home and abroad.

He added: Various industrial and university sectors are applying to us for contacts and cooperation, and we also extend the necessary assistance by providing needed equipment and manpower training.

We are active on an international level in some fields. But naturally, because of a shortage of research possibilities, these activities do not include all the parts of this vast field. But we are trying to expand the Laser Research Center and to attract skilled forces so we can meet both our domestic needs and also participate in global activities.

Commenting on the center's experts, he said: All the experts are Iranian and all the plans that are sent by the IAEO to this center are implemented by these experts. But we feel the need for more experts to implement our plans.

In answer to our question on world contacts, Soltan-Moradi said: One of the duties of our experts is to actively participate in scientific gatherings in Iran and abroad so they can increase their scientific know-how and present their scientific and research activities on an international level.

In addition to the publication of the research and scientific studies carried out by the center's experts in influential world publications, we also have close ties with international centers. We have sent groups to facilities such as the Trieste Center for courses lasting one month or longer.

In conclusion, he said: Our primary objective is to be able to stand on our own two feet in the field of laser technology. The most important factor in achieving this goal is attention to research. The importance of research is tantamount to the importance of the brain in human beings. Therefore, it is necessary to make special efforts to ensure the researchers' welfare so they can spend more time doing their jobs.

Series Reviews Atomic Energy Organization

NC0904102893 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Apr 93 p 5

[First of an unspecified number of installments of an article entitled: "The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization: Programs and Plans"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Iran is among the countries that, in the early part of 1350 [year beginning 21 March 1971], attempted to build a nuclear power plant. Undoubtedly this step was not only necessary but essential for ensuring that the country's electricity requirements are met, since the decrease in the country's nonnuclear energy resources means that nuclear energy is the most economical and best known method for electricity production.

It should be noted that the country's productive crude oil resources amount to 92 billion barrels. Some 90 percent of these resources are on land and the remainder are in the sea.

The natural gas resources amount to 14 trillion cubic meters or 92 billion barrels. Iran's coal resources are estimated to be between six and 40 billion tonnes and include various types of coal that can be turned into coke. Experts estimate that the volume of the energy output of coal is equal to 12 billion barrels of crude oil.

The theoretical potential of the country's water resources is 16,000 megawatts of electricity. These resources are mainly situated in the mountainous regions and in the west and northwest of Iran.

If we calculate that the output of hydroelectric power plants is 1,000 hours per year, the total volume of energy produced is 48 trillion watts per hour. If the thermal output of the thermal power plants is estimated at 30 percent, then the fuel needed to produce this amount of electricity in one plant is 273,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

Thus, in view of the limited nonnuclear fuel resources, the construction of a nuclear power plant in the country is absolutely essential. This is at a time when energy consumption in the country between 1346 and 1368 [1967-1989] increased six-fold.

The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO] was established in late 1353 [year ending 20 March 1975] in a bid to produce 23,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity. By early 1358 [1979]—that is, only four years after the organization was established—it had rapidly and randomly expanded and undertaken the heavy and costly commitments of building four power plants in Bushehr and Darkhovin, four in Esfahan and the Central Province, and 13 others by 1373 [1994], and made dozens of other related agreements concerning the construction of a desalination plant in Bushehr, extending fuel and technological support, and setting up the infrastructure for these plants.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, it was necessary for all IAEO programs to be reviewed. Thus, reducing the weight of the huge commitments and fundamentally changing the objectives and duties of the organization, as well as making these changes conform to the country's needs, were granted priority in the IAEO's activities. In view of the fact that the use of nuclear power is a relatively new and complicated method, and that countries that have this technology are unwilling to help other countries achieve relative self-sufficiency by offering them nuclear technology, basic studies and research to create a technical and scientific infrastructure in the IAEO were expanded. However, events in the first years of the revolution, combined with the existence of an atmosphere of pessimism toward the organization's previous activities and the haste in abrogating all existing agreements and programs meant that no major step was taken by the organization until 1361 [1982] to achieve its objectives.

In the first years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, due to official decisions on reducing activities and personnel of the organization and the approval of Addenum 37 of the 1358 budget bill limiting the efficacy of the standing law on the IAEO, about 50 percent of the organization's personnel—mostly experts—were either transferred to other state organizations or left the

country. The allocations for the organization's development and running expenses were sharply cut from 150 billion rials in 1357 to 2.6 billion rials in 1360. Also, because of organizational problems, dependence on the Ministry of Energy, and bureaucracy, even the small allocations that were approved were not extended to the organization. As an example, out of the total 3.8 billion rials of credit approved for the organization's research plans in the years 1358-1360, not even half this amount was received.

Therefore, because of the absence of an organized program for pursuing specific objectives, the loss of expert forces, the sharp drop in credits, as well as shortsightedness and the inability to correctly identify the organization's problems, Iran's atomic energy activities in the three first years after the revolution dropped to a minimum. In 1360, in view of the low morale of the organization's staff and the absence of credit and financial support, the organization was on the verge of complete disintegration.

In late 1360, in view of the daily increasing limitations set by the arrogant countries on countries of the Third World, once again the need for advanced nuclear technology came into the limelight. Finally, during its 20 March 1982 session, the cabinet approved that IAEO should independently continue its legal activities as in the past on the basis of the law on the organization and under the supervision of the then prime minister. Thus the majority of executive and research activities of the IAEO was resumed in 1361.

Generally speaking, the IAEO's activities in the years after the Islamic Revolution have been based on research and the use of nuclear energy for the creation of the necessary technical and scientific infrastructure to achieve self-sufficiency.

In the first five-year plan, activities in the field of nuclear energy have mainly focused on research, and the organization's research programs have advanced more rapidly and uniformly in this plan. The five general objectives stated in the first five-year plan are:

—Gaining access to nuclear science and technology, the technology of designing and constructing reactors, fuel cycling technology [teknolozhi-ye charkheh-ye sukht], and advanced nuclear technologies; and striving to train the experts needed by the country and to use their knowledge;

—Offering nuclear services to the industrial, agricultural, and medical fields;

—Supplying the raw materials needed by nuclear cycling inside the country;

—Safeguarding the environment and the people from radiation through radiological control and monitoring;

—Using nuclear energy to meet part of the country's electricity requirements.

Within these general objectives, the following quantitative objectives have also been specified in the first five-year plan:

—Creating a zero energy reactor [which operates at a very low energy level to check theories and needs relatively little shielding] for research and a reactor for training purposes; taking the necessary steps for the construction of a "strong" reactor to transfer technology and to elevate technological know-how; and creating possibilities for making the necessary use of this technology in the relative fields;

—Setting up semi-industrial plants for producing nuclear fuel and products;

—Completing the existing laboratories for the production of radioisotopes and creating a cyclotron for producing radioisotopes for the country's industrial, medical, and research needs;

—Producing the various types of lasers needed by the country;

—Expanding the output of the gamma-ray center from 200,000 curies to 400,000 curies and setting up a center to measure radication in food with an annual capacity of 20,000 tonnes per year.

—Expanding "film badge," and "thermoluminescence" services from 8,000 to 20,000 people per month.

—Carrying out exploration activities over about 300,000 sq km of territory to identify new resources and to determine the definite capacity of resources found during the five-year plan;

—Training about 300 people at the doctoral, postgraduate, and graduate levels and about 300 technicians in the field of nuclear science and technology.

SALAM Editor in Chief 'Views' Criticized

NC0804163093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Mar pp 1, 12

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarlu'i: "Some Remarks to the Editor in Chief of SALAM"—punctuation as published]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The following advice is addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Musavi-Kho'iniha, respected proprietor and editor in chief of SALAM and respected and outstanding member of the Tehran Militant Clerics Association!

Recent subjects covered in SALAM and expressed as views create doubts about how a knowledgeable and competent person like you can accept them. The feeling is that the views, which mostly concern the system, the government, officials, and activities, are becoming more hostile as the presidential election nears. [passage omitted]

On the last day of the year [20 March 1993], in an analysis by various sections of your newspaper, you painted a bleak picture and presented a vague future for the system and government?! Could your act have been praised by God almighty and by the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified?

In the economic analysis, you said: "The completion of the first five-year plan and the adoption of new economic policies—forming what is known as economic balance—begins an effort to direct the country's economy toward the world and a merger with it and an effort to regulate foreign relations on this basis."

You claimed: "Nearly everyone accepts that economic balance makes a larger group of people poorer!"

In the political analysis, you questioned whether the people's vote in the fourth term of the Majles was genuine and you officially justified the defeat of your faction in the election, writing: "The entire revolution and society were harmed." You went further to claim that "after the revolution—for the first time—we negated our independence to a great extent." You also attacked the "Council of Guardians" again without consideration and you questioned the "sincerity" of the government. As for education, you claimed that "elementary and secondary education have experienced their most critical years!"

You ridiculed the basic discussion on the cultural onslaught and the issue of enjoining virtue and forbidding vice and said: "The file of the cultural onslaught was closed with the resignation of Khatami, former minister of cultural and Islamic guidance, to be reopened if necessary!"

You said that during the past year, "cultural production was low" and that "the policies of economic balance have had their initial impact on culture."

If you place these stances next to the propaganda disseminated by the Meysami group's political-ideological publication RAH-E MOJAHED [Lotfollah Meysami is the head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Movement of Iran] and the propaganda disseminated by IRAN-E FARDA, the semi- official organ of the Freedom Movement, what can be concluded about your view of the revolution and its friends and supporters?

I did not want to say this, but you were one of the late imam's close associates and you heard what he said about nationalism and nationalists. How could you devote more than three pages of your newspaper to praising [former Prime Minister] Mosaddeq? [passage omitted]

What are your firm stances in the various political, cultural, economic, and social fields? Do you have anything to say or a plan of action on these?!

You who consider yourself to be a "radical" and believe that this is why you were eliminated from the fourth Majles, are you still a political radical? If you want to attract the vast spectrum of the National Front to the Freedom Movement and from there to the Meysami group and some of the clergymen who have problems with the system, can you remain radical?! How does your excellency define the word radical? During the fourth Majles election, you stood against outstanding personalities of the system in the Council of Guardians and against outstanding members of the Militant Clergy and the [Qom] Theological Lecturers Association and placed yourself next to what you called "heterodox" elements.

Despite three combatant clergymen criticizing Montazeri's stances on the imam, you now seize every opportunity to defend him. What is the meaning of this contradiction?!

Don't you believe in cultural liberalism and don't you support heterodox elements? The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance was in your friends' hands for 10 years, when all the pious people raised their voices to protest your cultural negligence, which finally led to the esteemed leader's warnings. Do you still claim to be radical?

What do you have to say about the economy? In your economic analysis "The Year That Passed," you commented on the government's economic stances and on the president's remarks, without being able to paint a bright picture of your own views and opinions!?

First, you mix your economic discussion with politics and approach economic issues from a political angle. This is not correct!

Second, condemning the 10 percent economic growth in 1369 and 1370 [1990-1991], you say: "There were no principles of economy involved. Only one factory was ready to operate and it was put to use with the minimum of investment. This should not be considered as successful economic policy."

Elsewhere, you say: "A lot of growth concerns the use of resources that were not put to use because of the war or resources in which there was no investment and that were put to use before they were ready. This cannot be considered an extraordinary achievement."

Is this true? Why didn't you tell the author that if he did not go to the front during the war he should have gone there afterward to see the destruction so that he could understand that things are not as he sees them, that billions of dollars of the country's vital resources were destroyed in the war, and that this is no joke. The interesting thing is that the author referred to the Abadan refinery as an example and said that it became operational "after some expense"! Do you believe this criticism is fair?!

Third, if you do not accept the government's economic policies, what is your economic plan? If you say the government's efforts toward government control and centralization were correct, you will surely not find anyone in Iran or Islam to support your views. And more important, the bases

for the new economic policies were laid when the imam was alive and the first five-year plan was approved by the third term of the Majles, which, according to you, included mostly radicals. What do you mean by saying that the first five- year plan speaks of a "merger" and is "directed" toward the "world economy?!

Most important is that SALAM's approach to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani appears to be spiteful and hostile. This is not worthy of you as the head of this publication. According to the Constitution, the president is second in rank in our Islamic system and he must be respected by everyone, especially by you, a clergyman. The system may never see a better leader than Hashemi. Many elements and conditions have merged to create Hashemi. Why do you so easily insult this true child and student of the imam and this powerful arm of leadership?! That is not to say criticism is banned and everyone should start to issue praise! But the expectation is that when you admit the pressures of the West and of U.S. imperialism have doubled and when we have enough newspapers and publications belonging to various elements of the Islamic system at home, there is no need for a newspaper affiliated with an outstanding clergyman to overtake everyone else in the race for opposition and obstinacy.

Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Musavi-Kho'iniha! Before publishing SALAM, you told ETTE-LA'AT that your paper's philosophy was to give the Militant Clerics Association its own mouthpiece, because existing newspapers did not reflect its views as they should. The question is: You may have something to say about the government, its policies, and its programs, but do you have any problem with the system or the revolution and its realities? Why did you, an outstanding member of the Militant Clerics Association and editor in chief of your newspaper, not adopt a stance on 11 February [marking the victory of the Islamic revolution] and on the Jerusalem Day marches? Each year your association issued statements on 11 February and other such days and, while clarifying its stances, called on the people to participate in the marches. Why didn't you issue a simple statement and call on the people to participate in the marches? For the Militant Clerics Association, is there anything more important?! When the people participated so magnificently in the marches, you officially questioned this magnificen#?and attributed things that not even the system's worst enemies would attribute to this immense popular movement. You blatantly questioned the presence of millions at this march and wrote: "They do not know the difference between a million and a thousand!!"

* Increase in Price of Bread Causes Wide Protests

93LA0015D London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] The increase in the price of bread in the bakeries since the start of the new year has caused widespread discontent and serious conflicts between the people and the bakers and in some areas has resulted in the public display of anger and protests. Consequently, the government of the Islamic Republic was immediately forced to intervene and announce that the increase in the price of bread had been done "autonomously" and that bread must be sold at the previous price.

The Cabinet, in a meeting on Sunday, emphasized that no government organization has the right to increase the price of its products without acquiring permission from the Economic Council or the Cabinet.

The increase in the price of bread in the bakeries was the result of the decrease in the government ration of flour subsidies to bakers. But the government, in the face of public protest, retreated. In the first days of the year, the price of Barbari bread increased by 100 percent, reaching 40 rials. Also, Sangak bread increased from 40 rials per loaf to 80 rials, and on occasion even 100 rials.

The hint of the increase in the price of bread was heard some time ago and has caused much anxiety among low-income families.

With the heightening of the people's protests, the head of the "Flour and Bread" Council, affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce, in a radio interview declared the bakers responsible for the high prices and emphasized that the payment of subsidies for flour used by bakers not only will not decrease this year but also will increase. He said: The government last year paid 200 rials in subsidies on every kg of flour, a total of 500 billion rials. This amount will increase this year.

The National Grain Organization also published a communique denying the increase in the price of flour delivered to bakeries and warning bakers that any sort of violation "shall be prosecuted in accordance with the regulations concerning government punishments."

* Tearing Down of Great Mosque Met With Objection

93LA0015C London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] The tearing down of a part of the Great Mosque of Qom under the pretext of expanding the shrine of her holiness Ma'sumeh faced the protest of the people of Qom and the moderate clerics who do not go along with the Islamic Republic and its supporters.

Last week, when several bulldozers of the Qom City Hall started tearing down a part of the mosque, which was founded by Ayatollah Borujerdi, a number of the Qom residents forcefully prevented the continuation of this action.

Sources close to the Qom clerics say that the Government of Iran is unhappy because a large part of this mosque is a place for the speeches and classes of liberal clerics who do not agree with the regime and are determined to disrupt the activities of these clerics under the pretext of expanding the shrine. The opponents of the tearing down of the mosque say that this action is unprecedented in the history of Islam. Even though the

Islamic government can allow itself to destroy a mosque that is harmful to the government, in the opinion of liberal and discontented clerics, the government has political reasons to destroy the Great Mosque.

The Great Mosque of Qom is one of the largest and most costly mosques of Iran. It was built during the time of Ayatollah Borujerdi at a cost of 1 million rials. This mosque, which has a capacity of 50,000 people, is extremely valuable architecturally and artistically.

The Great Mosque of Qom is endowed by the family of Ayatollah Borujerdi, and its guardian is Mohammad Sadeq Tabataba'i-Borujerdi, the grandson of Ayatollah Borujerdi. Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, Ayatollah Golpayegani, and Ayatollah Amoli, who passed away recently, held their classes at this mosque.

The problem of the Great Mosque of Qom with the government and the seminary is its independence, which in accordance with the last will and testament of Ayatollah Borujerdi allows it to operate outside the power of the seminary of Qom and the Feyziyyeh School. In the history of the activities of this mosque, this has always been observed. According to those who have studied in it, in the afternoons, the mosque is a place for discussions for 2,000 to 3,000 students and clerics.

In recent years, the Administrative Council of the Qom Seminary has tried to annex the Great Mosque, but since the mosque has always operated independently, the seminary has not succeeded in carrying out this plan.

Last week, after the City Hall bulldozers went to the mosque planning to tear down some of it, Ayatollah Golpayegani issued a communique in which he considered any interference in the Great Mosque of Qom a violation.

The large library of the Great Mosque has 100,000 valuable books, which the Administrative Council of Qom Seminary insists on having placed at the disposal of the seminary organization. In the opinion of informed sources, the government and the seminary do not want to see the presence of an independent power that could be a place for the assembly of ideas and beliefs contrary to theirs.

* Inflation Rate Estimated 30 to 40 Percent

93LA0015B London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Apr 93 p 4

[Interviews with Firuzeh Khal'atbari, an expert of the Central Bank of Iran; 'Ali Rashidi, professor of the Free University and deputy director of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce; and Hashem Pesaran, professor at Cambridge University, by Radio France International (RFI) on 24 and 25 March in Paris]

[Text] Upon the invitation of the Center for National Scientific Research of France (CNRS), the Free Islamic University and the French Institute of Iranology (IFRI), a group of Iranian economists from Iran and abroad assembled on Wednesday and Thursday, 24 and 25 March, in Paris in order to examine the problems of the Iranian economy in crisis. The Persian Program of the Radio France International (RFI) posed questions concerning the economic situation of Iran and the policies of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in separate interviews with Firuzeh Khal'atbari, the expert of the Central Bank of Iran; 'Ali Rashidi, professor of the Free University and deputy director of the Chamber of Commerce; and Hashem Pesaran, professor of Cambridge University, who had participated in this seminar.

To the question of whether or not foreign currency will be at a single rate from the start of the new year, as the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani had announced, Firuzeh Khal'atbari, the expert of the Central Bank, responded that foreign currency has not yet reached a single rate in its true sense. The government has set the dollar equivalent to 1,000 rials in the budget, but the ministries must buy foreign currency on the free market. Also, in special circumstances, there are exceptions and subsidies. Hence, the black market for foreign currency will not be completely eliminated, and there will be a system of several foreign currency rates accompanied by the weakening of the rial. Firuzeh Khal'atbari believes that the foreign currency and budget policies that have been announced will have deep inflationary effects on the Iranian economy.

Hashem Pesaran, professor of Cambridge University, also believes that Iran has not yet truly achieved a policy for the creation of a single foreign currency rate, and hence inflation will not reach the degree that it would if a single foreign currency rate were created. Nevertheless, he estimates the rate of inflation between 30 to 40 percent.

Concerning the extent to which the government has succeeded in the policy of transferring the industries and the production units to the private sector, Firuzeh Khal'atbari responded: If transferring to the private sector means offering on the stock market, yes, it has been done. But if it means reaching the private sector, I am doubtful about that, because the major purchases on the stock market are not in the private sector but the government unit and banks. Hence, in practice there is s sort of changing of hands, from government to government.

In another part of this program, the experts on the Iranian economy were asked to evaluate the first Five-Year Plan of the government of Rafsanjani. Firuzeh Khal'atbari said that, in her opinion, the government has been unable to achieve the goal of the first Five-Year Plan. She was asked: What conditions must occur in order for the Iranian economy to advance towards more production and for the pressure on the lower income strata to be reduced? She responded: The level of investments and their decrease is not so much the problem of the Iranian economy as is the decrease in quality and the usefulness of investments. She added: The Iranian economy needs a new direction, for which political and economic stability are the most necessary and important requirements. She said: For example, these $2 billion

nonoil exports that we have are not what we wanted. We wanted, of the $4 billion in nonoil exports projected in the Five-Year Plan, for $2 billion to be in industrial exports. But 50 percent of our nonoil exports are carpets and pistachios, and our industrial exports are under $200 million. Hashem Pesaran also believes that the most important problem of Iran is the problem of the lack of usefulness of industries and the absence of domestic competition, which makes the Iranian industries unable to compete on foreign markets.

In another part of this interview, 'Ali Rashidi, the deputy director of the Chamber of Commerce of Iran, which is an official organization of the Islamic Republic, said: We have lost valuable opportunities. Since the revolution, we have had more than $200 billion in oil revenues. But now, with an additional population of 20 million people, we are in a situation of not having much choice. In response to the question of whether economic progress is better for Iran without political and social freedoms or with them, he said: In the long term, only political, social, and economic freedoms will guarantee the development of the society.

In conclusion, 'Ali Rashidi explained the roots of the Iranian ailments with astonishing candor and said: Our primary problem at the present is the mental inability of some of those who occupy government positions. Their intellectual abilities and understanding are very, very limited. After the revolution, the only requirement for appointment was political cooperation, and these are the people who have held the positions. On the other hand, these individuals have also gained personal interests in these positions, which prevents proper progress. Hence, certain laws are needed for auditing, control, and precise implementation of regulations. Officials must also be experts, must love the society and the country, be prepared to sacrifice for it, and respect the laws, and the laws and regulations have to apply to them. Achieving these factors will result in development and progress for the whole country.

The details of these interviews will be published in the next issue.

* Explosions of Oil Installations Reduce Production

93LA0015A London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] According to information obtained from a confidential oil industry publication, the recent explosion of the oil facilities and pipelines in the province of Khuzestan has caused the Islamic Republic to face decreased production. For this reason, the National Iranian Oil Company is preparing an emergency plan to import petroleum products.

Such terrorist acts have disrupted on a daily basis the 3.3 million barrel crude oil production of Iran.

Several days ago, a huge explosion occurred in the natural gas injection system to the Ahvaz oil field, which has a capacity of 850,000 barrels per day. A week earlier, another explosion in the Marun region, with a capacity of 560,000 barrels per day, created still another problem. The extent of the destruction in these two areas remains unclear, but the large explosion of the natural gas injection system to the oil wells could have affected the production ceiling. The regime of Iran has announced the reason as flooding, but rumor has it that the guards of the regime have had a hand in these events.

Recent incidents coincide with the discontent of the Guard Corps of Khuzestan, whose authority has been restricted and a number of whose personnel have been dismissed by the Tehran authorities. On the other hand, in the opinion of experts, it is possible that flooding has contributed to these incidents. But the engineers of the oil company doubt that water could have harmed the pipes in the refinery.

The shortage of oil products for domestic use once again puts the leaders of the Islamic Republic in a serious bind. Last year, severe shortages of kerosene brought strong criticism and protest on the part of the people. People in almost all parts of the country faced the shortage of fuel. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Petroleum tries hard to at least send kerosene and gasoline to large cities, such as Tehran and Esfahan, in order to prevent unrest as the result of the discontent of the people. But the need to export oil to gain foreign currency has made the carrying out this policy difficult. On the threshold of the Iranian New Year, there was a shortage of gasoline in Tehran, and long lines formed in front of the gasoline stations.

Prior to the recent explosions, Iran exported 380,000 barrels of kerosene and diesel fuel daily to the oil-producing countries in the Persian Gulf. Now, to make up for domestic refining, oil will be the reason for the loss of another part of the foreign currency revenues for an unlimited period of time.

Informed oil sources said last week that repairs to the damaged facilities have begun, but it has already been revealed that a February explosion has destroyed the equivalent of two weeks of Iranian oil production. The Tehran and Esfahan refineries have suffered the most shortages due to terrorist acts in the oil facilities and pipelines.

Some sources estimate the level of oil production decrease last month to be a total of 500,000 barrels. Now, some of this shortage has been compensated for, but in the first two weeks of March, oil production continued to show a decrease of 200,000 barrels, and the situation is not expected to return to normal by the end of March.

A return to normal faces problems, because essentially reconstruction programs for damaged refineries make very slow progress. The Arak Refinery (with a capacity of 150,000 barrels per day), which was supposed to start operations next week, will not be ready before the third

quarter, and most likely the fourth quarter, of the year. In addition, the larger Bandar 'Abbas refinery (240,000 barrels per day), which was supposed to be ready for operation by the end of the Christian year, will not be operational until some time after the start of 1994. The National Refinery and Distribution Company, affiliated with the Ministry of Petroleum, has faced mounting problems in terms of foreign currency funds since last summer. For this reason, the import of foreign equipment for the reconstruction of the refineries and other oil facilities has come to a halt. The $30 billion foreign debt has caused Iranian banks to lose confidence.

Pakistan

Further on Russian Foreign Minister Visit

Kozyrev Concludes Visit

BK0804120293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The Russian Federation has offered its full cooperation to Pakistan for the development and augmentation of energy resources in the country. Radio Pakistan's representative understands that Russia has also expressed its willingness to supply conventional and nuclear power plants to Pakistan to meet its growing requirements in this vital sector.

The Russian foreign minister, Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, left Lahore this afternoon for Dushanbe, Tajikistan, at the end of a three-day official visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by the secretary general foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki. Before his departure, Mr. Kozyrev expressed his gratitude to the people and Government of Pakistan for the warm reception and hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in Pakistan. Earlier, the Russian foreign minister visited places of historical interest and laid a wreath at the mausoleum of great poet philosopher Mohammad Iqbal.

Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative after bidding farewell to the Russian foreign minister, the secretary general foreign affairs said there existed excellent opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Joint Statement Issued

BK0804162993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Russia has offered its full cooperation to Pakistan for the development of energy resources in the country. Radio Pakistan's representative says that Russia has also expressed its willingness to supply conventional and nuclear power plants to Pakistan to meet its growing energy requirements.

Pakistan and Russia have agreed to cooperate and consult with each other in promoting peace and stability in the region, protecting human rights, and combatting terrorism and drug trafficking. This was stated in a joint statement issued in Lahore this afternoon at the end of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's three-day visit to Pakistan.

Both countries have also agreed to promote the existing bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy and to sign a political document on the basic principles of bilateral relations.

The joint statement says both countries will also sign a number of agreements on consular matters, the mutual extradition of criminals, and prevention of drug trafficking, as well as a protocol on political consultations and a scientific and cultural exchange program for the year 1993-94.

Both countries expressed satisfaction with their growing relationship and agreed to create conditions for cooperation in space exploration, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and in the military-technical fields.

The joint statement says Russia supports efforts for a dialogue between India and Pakistan aimed at establishing confidence building measures.

On Pakistan's stand on Kashmir and its efforts for the peaceful resolution of this issue, Russia emphasized the necessity for solving the Kashmir issue through a dialogue between India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

Russia appreciated Pakistan's efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan. Both countries hoped that the Islamabad Accord reached by the Afghan groups will lead to the establishment of peace and stability and guarantee the preservation of the territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

Russia and Pakistan have also agreed to set up a joint task force to facilitate the earliest possible release of the former Soviet servicemen in capitivity in Afghanistan.

Both countries expressed their concern at the situation in Tajikistan and continuing bloodshed and human rights violations in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left Lahore for Tajikistan this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by Secretary general Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki. Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative after bidding farewell to Kozyrev, Akram Zaki said there existed excellent opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

'Sources' on Nuclear Plant Sale

OW0804142493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 8 KYODO—Russia has been negotiating the sale of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan, official sources said Thursday [8 April]. A Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev

held talks with the chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission on the possible sale, the sources said.

A Foreign Office spokesman told reporters Wednesday that Russia has endorsed a Pakistani proposal for discussions among five nations to resolve the problem of Pakistan and India's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Kozyrev told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN before his departure Russia has offered full cooperation to Pakistan in its development of conventional and nuclear power plants.

Egyptian Support Sought in Curbing Terrorism

BK0804105593 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 7—Pakistan is seeking Egypt's support to blunt current propaganda to implicate Islamabad in allegation of sponsoring terrorism.

According to informed sources, initial talks over the issue have already been held between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Bonn on March 31.

The Prime Minister is believed to have told the Egyptian President that Pakistan was being targeted by the Indo-Jewish lobby for its alleged involvement in the terrorist activities.

Sources said now Minister for Interior Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain would be leading a high-powered delegation to Cairo to further discuss the issue with the Egyptian authorities and seek their support to dispell the impression that Pakistan had any thing to do with terrorism.

"I would hopefully be leaving for Egypt next week to undertake further discussion with Egyptian leaders on this issue", the Minister for Interior told DAWN.

He said he would be visiting Cairo on the instructions of the Prime Minister to explore possibilities for cooperating in halting terrorism in the region.

During the visit the issue of preventing Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists using Pakistan's border province with Afghanistan as base would also come up for discussion.

Sources said that while Prime Minister's Special Assistant Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan was currently visiting the United States to assure that Islamabad has nothing to do with terrorism, the Minister for Interior would seek the Egypt's support for using its influence in the United States and stop it from declaring Islamabad a terrorist state.

However, the Minister for Interior regretted that Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali, who resigned from the cabinet on Tuesday, has unnecessarily talked about the issue of terrorism.

"He may have political differences with the Nawaz Sharif government but being a Pakistani he (Assef) should not have said that the Nawaz Sharif government has done nothing to prevent foreign nationals to use Pakistan's soil for terrorism", Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said.

"It appeared to me that Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali has deliberately chosen to sabotage the important tour of Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan to Washington", he further stated.

He said the people like Sardar Assef Ali always harmed the national interest for their own vested interest.

Answering a question the Minister for Interior said the Pakistan Government has just launched a crackdown on all illegal immigrants residing in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], "and we want to prove that Islamabad is not sponsoring any kind of terrorism and would not allow any illegal foreign national to live in Pakistan beyond April 31.

The Prime Minister had said in Bonn after meeting Egyptian President that be has discussed with him the activities of some elements in the region. "We both expressed concern at the extremist and militant activity by some elements in the region", he said.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain expressed the hope that the United States would ultimately realise that Islamabad was not involved in any kind of terrorism and stop thinking to declare "us a terrorist state just because of the Indo-Jewish lobby".

Editorial Blames U.S. for Training 'Terrorists'

BK0804104393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The true story of terror traced from its beginning"]

[Text] Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's resignation from the federal cabinet is entirely his personal affair, or one between him and his party leader. He has unveiled a long list of his complaints. Most of these are for him to agitate about in whatever way he deems proper. Mr. Ali's observations on the extremely sensitive subject of terrorism, as reported in the newspapers, leaves one uneasy. In all likelihood, Mr. Ali appears to have been misquoted. It could well be his own failure to make himself correctly understood. However that be, the point about terrorism in the context of Pakistan is clouded with an annoying deal of confusion, most of it deliberately injected. That the government of Mr. Nawaz Sharif and his spokesmen on the subject have been totally unequal to the task is of course profoundly regrettable. Mr. Ali's mincing of words only makes confusion worse confounded.

Let's begin at the beginning. When the United States trapped a willing dictator of Pakistan, that is Gen Zia, into their Afghan war against arch enemy Soviet Union, every ruffian and shady character, mercenary and petty adventurer from every dark nook and corner of the

world was welcome. The US government, through its Pakistani surrogates, gave these disreputable elements money, weapons and the freedom to kill and plunder in the name of Jihad in Afghanistan. That Zia saw in Afghanistan a heaven sent lease of life for his then ebbing fortunes is no secret. He let the Americans patronise anyone, so long as the US government supported his regime and pampered his cronies. An infinite amount of money changed hands. Many who had nothing directly to do with the fighting of the so-called Jihad gathered cash, raked in weapons which they promptly sold and converted into cash. Many of these dubious characters never went into action. And, as observed already, they came from all sorts of places. Most of them were fugitives from their native lands. But for the promoters of the Jihad they were good fodder. The training given to them by military men under US supervision and command turned them into fiendish terror merchants. And this was a truly multi-national community of terror-mongers. The government of Gen Zia had neither the inclination nor perhaps the imagination to round up these highly dangerous elements, once the Afghan war ended. These trained terrorists, who prepared to let hell loose inside Afghanistan, moved out into various parts of the world. The primary responsibility of rounding up these terrorist elements, was that of the chief sponsor of the Afghan war. But the US abandoned the Afghanistan theatre as if they had never been there and had never anything to do with Afghanistan. Later, the government of Ms Benazir Bhutto was told by the powers in effective control of the Afghanistan affairs (headed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan) to keep off this area. It remained with the President and his close aides. They, too, were too busy feathering their own nests to care about the terrorists who had suddenly been deprived of their targets. They spread out into the wide world. For all anyone knows, many of them may be lurking inside Pakistan. The whole story is a stinking scandal. And the Americans cannot in honesty pretend that their hands are untainted. In fact, they have been the chief promoters of this brand of terrorists. Whether they are now operating in Egypt or Tunis (as Mr. Ali pointedly mentions) or anywhere else, the fact remains that they are the product of US training. And it was clearly the duty of the US authorities operating the Afghan campaign to have cleaned up this mess before vanishing from the scene, leaving it all on the shoulders of Pakistan. And the shocking part of this scandal is that the government of Mr. Nawaz Sharif has yet to put the whole facts before the world to enable it to see where the primary responsibility of this crime now taking the shape of terror lies.

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Double Standard'

BK0804110793 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 7 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. Double Standard"]

[Text] An important meeting held under the chairmanship of Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, discussed the U.S. threat to declare Pakistan a terrorist state and described the move as a conspiracy to isolate Pakistan at the international level. The minister of state reiterated the Pakistani stand of strongly opposing and condemning terrorism and does not consider it justifiable in any respect. The allegations about Pakistan's interference in occupied Kashmir are totally unfounded and concocted. Pakistan has been and will continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris and will not flinch from it under any circumstances.

The meeting expressed concern at the double standard of the United States and said Washington took military action to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in accordance with UN resolutions, but is doing nothing to free Kashmir from the forcible occupation of India, and, instead, is even pointing fingers at the moral support extended by Pakistan to the oppressed Kashmiris. If the U.S. were to realize its global responsibilities and duties as a superpower, it would feel it imperative to help the Kashmiris achieve their right to self-determination and to support truth and justice. The talk on its part of declaring its age-old ally, Pakistan, a terrorist state does not create a good impression. If Washington desires to continue playing an effective role in international affairs, it must uphold principles and refrain from adopting and applying double standards.

Daily Views U.S. Diplomacy, Policy in Asia

BK0904094793 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 93 p 7

[By Dr. Maqbool A. Bhatty]

[Text] Having inherited a world transformed by the end of the cold war, a major task for the Clinton Administration is to reorder its global priorities, and pursue to its conclusion, the reassessment process started by the Bush Administration, that would lead to the laying down of new strategies and goals for the unique superpower.

Though President Bush had grandly talked about a New World Order on the eve of the Gulf War of 1991, he backed off from an ideological commitment to a policy based on principles alone, on account of the demands of "realpolitik." He found the challenge of basing solutions of political problems on the U.N. Charter, and of enforcing all resolutions of the Security Council with the same resolve as the ones on Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, too daunting. The result was a considerable watering down of the rhetoric about the New World Order, accompanied by a public admission that, given its economic predicament, the U.S. could not afford to be the "policeman" of the world.

Yet in January this year, both Bush in the last weeks of his administration, and Clinton at the very start of his incumbency, had no qualms about using military power to forcefully remind Iraq's Saddam Husayn abut his obligations under the U.N. resolutions governing the ceasefire. This was done at a time when the Muslims in Bosnia were being subjected to atrocities, and human rights violations by Serbian forces, reminiscent of the worst barbarities of Nazi Germany, while the Western

Great Powers, who dominate the Security Council, were finding all kinds of excuses for inaction despite resolutions of the same Security Council, enabling Serbia to persist in its genocidal tactics with impunity.

The post-cold war diplomacy of the U.S. has acquired some recognisable features, even though it is generally understood that the process of adjusting to the changed global scenario will continue for some time. The broad lines of this diplomacy, which has been bipartisan in the U.S. since the end of the Second World War, are as follows:-

i) Significant headway having been made in reducing the nuclear arms of the superpowers, the U.S. and Russia, as well as the other nuclear powers, now attach the highest importance to nuclear non- proliferation to ensure that the threat of a nuclear war does not confront the world from new quarters. This policy has ancillary goals of preventing the spread of missile technology, and of securing a general lowering of levels of conventional forces, notably in the Third World.

ii) The U.S. would promote free trade, as well as greater freedom to invest and cooperate regionally and globally, in order to be able to compete on an equal footing in the economic and commercial spheres, and to create the environment for all round economic growth in the world.

iii) The U.S. supports an enhanced role for the U.N., both to promote and maintain peace, and to manage such global issues as environmental pollution, drugs, terrorism and population. In dealing with conflict resolution, the U.S. recognises the special obligations of the great powers (permanent members of the Security Council) and seeks to act in concert with them.

U.S. Priorities: Within the context of its broad goals, the U.S. has a descending order of priorities in relation to the geographical areas of the globe. On account of economic interests, as well as established political and cultural links, Europe and Japan figure at the top of the list, as do immediate neighbours, such as Canada and Mexico. Latin America has been a traditional sphere of U.S. influence, as can be recalled from the Monroe Doctrine, while Israel and the countries of the Middle East and the Gulf remain prominent, in the context of the security of the Jewish state, and of access to a vital raw material, namely oil. The Pacific rim countries, among them China, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the ASEAN countries remain high because of the growing economic dynamism of this region as well as its strategic location. The states of the former Soviet Union also remain an area of interest which leaves South Asia, and much of Africa as areas of marginal concern.

As it happens, the regions characterised by the most serious and explosive tensions happen to be concentrated in Asia. Israel and most of its Arab antagonists, as well as Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan are in West Asia, while South Asia bristles with ethnic tensions and unresolved disputes, notably Kashmir that may precipitate yet another conflict, which western powers fear might have a nuclear dimension this time.

Arms Control versus Conflict Resolution: The post-cold war diplomacy of the United States assigns a high priority to arms control measures, including nuclear non-proliferation, and restrictions on the acquisition of missile technology, through MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime). South Asia, while assigned a peripheral role in other respects, figures prominently in terms of arms control. The U.S. inclination has been to exert the greatest pressure on Pakistan, for two reasons: i) With its traditional reliance on economic and military assistance from the U.S., Pakistan is considered to be more vulnerable to pressure; ii) As a country with an Islamic orientation, Pakistan is seen as much more likely to transfer sensitive technology to other Muslim countries, which may pose a threat to western interests in general, and the security of Israel in particular.

The recently published Carnegie Endowment study, entitled "India and America After the Cold War" recommends the scrapping of the 1959 security arrangement with Pakistan, accompanied by a more accommodating attitude towards India's missile programme, since it enjoys "overwhelming domestic support" and is unlikely to be reversed by external pressures. The study also recommends a freeze on the nuclear programmes of both India and Pakistan, since it would be "unrealistic" to achieve a "rollback" of India's nuclear programme. Instead, the U.S. is urged to press for formal commitments by the two countries not to export military-relevant nuclear technology. The study, which many authoritative Americans consider to be biased in favour of India, does represent a major effort, with the participation of many experts who have held high office, and who remain influential, to identify U.S. priorities in South Asia, and assigns a central role to India in support of U.S. goals and perceptions in South Asia. The report also suggests a permanent seat for India in the U.N. Security Council.

One expects that the unique superpower would weigh all factors, including the past role played by Pakistan, and its potential role in the emerging scenario in this part of the world. Apart from the initiatives being taken to convey Pakistan's concerns at the official level, it is imperative that we also establish contact with the American academics, and think-tanks, which have been exposed much more to Indian perceptions.

A point that will have to be made forcefully, is that the weapons programmes and ventures into sensitive fields of technology, are not national goals in themselves, even though their prestige value cannot be denied. The arms race in South Asia has become a source of international concern because there exist tensions and disputes which have led to armed conflicts in the past and may precipitate hostilities once again, this time with the possible use of new weapons systems based on technologies that are likely to become a menace to the entire globe. To

control weapon systems, and restrict the spread of potentially dangerous technologies is only one aspect of the contemporary challenge. It is far more necessary to deal with the malady, which is the political disputes, rather than the symptoms, namely the arms build-up and the acquisition of sophisticated technologies.

Informed circles in the U.S. are now coming round to the view that conflict resolution requires a leadership role by the U.S. in advancing diplomatic and political solutions of the causes of the conflicts. The Middle East peace initiative provides a good precedent in which the involvement of the U.S. is critically important. In South Asia also, the leverage of the U.S., and its principled concerns for democratic and human rights can make the decisive difference. The rights of the people of Kashmir, for which thousands of them are making the supreme sacrifice, are recognised in resolutions of the U.N. which cannot be treated as dead letters just because India has acquired nuclear teeth and may soon establish high credentials in missile technology. The world cannot countenance the acquisition of great power status by a country that violates the principles and resolutions of the United Nations. If it was wrong for the Soviet Union to occupy Afghanistan, and the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait was unacceptable, it is equally reprehensible for India to deny the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir, that was promised to them by Pandit Nehru at the time the state's accession was accepted on the basis of the Maharaja's initiative.

Policies and initiatives to control the spread of dangerous technologies, such as chemical and biological weapons as well as nuclear and missile systems with military uses are an essential component of diplomacy for peace in the post-cold war world. However, stable regional and global peace will be secured when negotiated settlements can be achieved of the disputes, and contentious issues involving the basic rights of millions of human beings, whether in Kashmir, Palestine or Southern Africa.

Sharif Wants Bombay Suspects Arrested

BK0804143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has instructed the Interior Ministry to immediately establish a task force to arrest the suspects of the Bombay explosions if they are indeed in Pakistan. The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's condemnation for all acts of terrorism and offered full cooperation to Indian authorities to trace the suspects in response to the information that they may be in Pakistan. He directed the Ministry of Interior to employ all possible resources in this respect.

Jet Trainer Built With PRC Formally Launched

BK0804151093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] A jet trainer Karakoram-8, jointly produced by China and Pakistan, was formally launched at a special ceremony at Chaklal air base today.

Giving the details of the trainer aircraft K-8, Air Commodore Tariq said the aircraft has a fool-proof system and mechanism comparable to other light aircraft of the world. He said next year Pakistan will be able to construct 25 percent of the aircraft. He hoped that up to 1998, with the endeavors of the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, our country will be able to manufacture the K-8 aircraft completely.

Later, the chief guest, Federal Minister for Defense Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani witnessed the first flight demonstration of the aircraft. General Shamim Alam Khan, chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Air Chief Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan and Chinese experts also attended the function.

The jet aircraft has a speed of 807 km per hour with modern facilities. The aircraft has fully automatic (?avionic) system, environment control system and auxiliary systems.

The federal minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, termed this achievement of the Pakistan designers as a milestone and mark of a proud moment for the nation.

Sharif: Ministers' Resignation Makes No Difference

BK0804153393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, the prime minister said a very big economic development program is being implemented at an accelerated pace to ensure that the fruits of government's efforts percolate down to the people as soon as possible. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif advised the national press to desist from adopting a sensationalist approach and to report developments objectively.

The prime minister said the resignation of four or five ministers from the Federal Cabinet did not make any difference and it had not created any crisis. Their posts would soon be filled because there was no dearth of qualified people in the country. He said in a democratic system, consensus and dissension are necessary.

Over 100 Arabs Arrested in Terrorism Crackdown

BK0804114093 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 8 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] More than 100 Arabs, attached to different NGOs [non- governmental organizations] helping the Afghan groups, have been arrested by police in Peshawar to find

out the suspects among them wanted for terrorist activities, said police sources, Wednesday.

Kept in the University Town and Hayatabad police stations, the Arabs mostly belong to African Muslim countries like Sudan, Algeria, Nigeria, Tunisia and Libya while some youths are from Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Two of them, Muhammad Ali and Yahya hold the American nationalities. Police officials were busy finalising the lists late Wednesday night of the Arabs arrested mainly from Hayatabad. They were also making their pictures available to high-ups.

Most of the Arabs were asked on Tuesday to report at Hayatabad police station to testify their documents. When they arrived at the police station, they were locked up and later shifted to the University Town police station. Four of them, Ahmad Son of Yahya (Kuwait), Amanuddin Son of Abdullah (Sudan), Farez Son of Muhammad (Algeria) and Ahmadain Son of (?Ahmadain) (Iraq) were held back in Hayatabad police station.

The police version was that they were being detained only to find whether their papers were legally sound. But the Arabs detained claimed that they were arrested after the police raided their houses and offices in Hayatabad, University Town, Jabir Flats, Oraksai Plaza, offices of the Ikhwanul Moslimeen, Saudi and Kuwaiti Hilal-i-Ahmar. Requesting not to be named, they told THE FRONTIER POST, "We are not terrorists. We have been fighting in Afghanistan because that was a Muslim jihad. We will fight in Kashmir, Bosnia and wherever the Muslims need us. But we are not terrorists. Pakistan arrested us only to appease the US and European governments because they hate the Muslim people fighting against the enemies of Islam."

SSP [Senior Superintendent Police] Siffat Chayyur told THE FRONTIER POST that of all the 100 Arabs arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday, 17 were detained while the rest were allowed to go. But it could not be confirmed by the time this report was filed late Wednesday night. SSP directed THE FRONTIER POST to confirm the final list from Hayatabad police station but the moharar (desk clerk) of the station said: "I have not been directed by the SSP to tell you about this."

The friends and relations of the Arabs said they wre neither set free nor were they told why police held some of them in lock-ups. The officials who raided the houses and hostels of the Arabs explained that some of them were not released because they possessed fake documents for stay in Pakistan.

Some of the Arabs said their friends and relatives were also arrested in Islamabad and were at present being kept in a Rawalpindi jail. One of them said, "I was also put up with them in prison but was later released. Three of them got free after reportedly paying the officials Rs. [rupees] 100,000."

[The following appears enclosed within the above article as a side-bar, entitled "Egyptians being separated from other Arabs":

["Immigration officials after police crackdown on Arabs are separating the Egyptians from the arrested lot intensifying suspicions that they may be deported to their country, rocked by fundamentalism. The defiant Afghan war veterans expressed the fear that they might be killed if extradited to their countries as Egypt's Husni Mubarak has already given vent to his outrage in Wednesday's meeting with President Bill Clinton of America.

["The immigration officials scrutinised the documents of the arrested Arabs one by one and the Egyptian were kept in separate lock-ups from others."]

* Bhutto Discusses Terrorism, Extremism

93WR0189A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Apr 93 p 8

[Unattributed interview with Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan and the leader of Pakistan People's Party, in London; date not given: "Bhutto to AL-HAYAH: Islam Is Innocent of Terrorism"]

[Text] London—In an exclusive and comprehensive interview with AL- HAYAH in London, Benazir Bhutto, former Pakistani prime minister and leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, warned of the disintegration and collapse of both India and Pakistan if the political conflict, the explosives war, and the accusations exchanged by the two countries continue. Bhutto, who is on a visit to London with her husband and children, expects the "faulty" policy adopted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the "man of lost opportunities" will lead to the failure of his government's procession, thus advancing the date of the general elections, which are scheduled for 1995.

She criticized the "radicalism that uses religion as a means to change existing conditions with force and violence," saying that Islam is the religion of tolerance, goodness, and peace and that "those who offend Islam's teachings simply offend peoples' right to coexist under the umbrella of democracy, consultation, peace, and security."

Bhutto also criticized those who use "terrorist acts" perpetrated by some radicals, "be they individuals or groups," in the name of religion as a pretext to deface Islam and Muslims.

She warned against introducing nuclear weapons into a country like Pakistan, and she criticized the Pakistani foreign minister's statements in which he said that his country possesses a nuclear weapon because this "exposes Pakistan to the danger of a total Western boycott, to denial of aid and, consequently, to isolation from the world community." The following is the text of the interview:

[AL-HAYAH] A Pakistani official viewed the resignation of three members of Nawaz Sharif's cabinet as a step that will lead to the fall of the government. Do you hold the same opinion?

[Bhutto] Nawaz Sharif's cabinet is going through an unstable phase currently, and the resignation of three cabinet ministers confirms this fact. The resignations have not surprised anybody because it has been well known for sometime that numerous cabinet ministers are not comfortable with the way Pakistan is being governed and that they live in a climate in which they could resign at any time.

I believe that Nawwaz Sharif is the "man of lost opportunities" because he has not been able to achieve any accord or understanding with his partners in the regime and has not been able to build bridges of dialogue with the opposition.

In the wake of the 1990 elections, which were biased and dishonest, we in the opposition said that for the sake of Pakistan and its people and for democracy and freedom, we are prepared to engage in dialogue and to cooperate with the government to correct the course and to secure the opportunities of stability, abundance, and production for the people. Despite this, Nawaz Sharif, who used every means to expel us from power, has demonstrated that he is not prepared to invite us to dialogue and cooperation.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the objective of the dialogue?

[Bhutto] We declared from the outset that all we want and seek is to accomplish democratic reform. In our opinion, this reform is embodied by applying the principles of sound democratic government, ending the government's sacrificing of the people's political and economic interests, shunning the sacrificing of the people's interests for the sake of the rulers' interests, and by adopting all measures that ensure future parliamentary elections that are free of all bias and all pressures.

Nawaz Sharif has rejected all this because he feels that it will lead to our return to power and that it is in his interest to work to crush us rather than accomplish any demand for reform. Thus, he forgets or disregards the facts, including the fact that governments come and go, that he will not be able to stay in his present position forever, and that it is better for him to give up in the interest of the Pakistani people now while he is in a position of power than to ponder reform and give up [in despair] when he is in a position of weakness and inability.

Nawaz Sharif has proven, as I have already noted, that he is the man of lost opportunities. This policy may compel him to call for general parliamentary elections in this current year instead of holding these elections on schedule in 1995.

[AL-HAYAH] Is this definite?

[Bhutto] It is not yet clear whether the cabinet split will lead to a parliamentary split and, consequently, to general parliamentary elections. However, all possibilities are in the picture in light of the ministerial resignations and the splits within the ruling party's ranks.

[AL-HAYAH] If parliamentary elections are held this year, do you expect that you will return to power with your party?

[Bhutto] The president of the Republic, the prime minister, and the Army cooperate or participate in ruling Pakistan at present. Army participation in the rule is not declared, but it exists. This partnership will continue until 1995, the election date, unless developments dictate advancing the date to this year. We in the party rely on the rules and principles of our representation of our base, which consists of the Pakistani people. This base makes the decision and the selection. I refuse to head a cabinet if I am not elected by the people for this task. Honor, dignity, and trust come from assignment by the people not from occupying the seat of power. This is why I say that if the next elections are free and honest, even if only by 50 percent, then they will dictate our return to power. Regardless of what happens with the timing of the parliamentary elections, the reality will impose itself, and this reality is that the [ruling] party is divided and that our base is stronger and more cohesive. We will carry on with our effort to advance the elections date and to organize the elections under a coalition government to ensure that they are free and honest. If Nawaz Sharif's government obstructs this endeavor, then this will signify very clearly that it is not prepared for reform and honesty and that it has to shoulder the consequences of such behavior and conduct which accomplishes the objectives of the fundamentalists who do not believe in elections or in democracy.

Fundamentalists and Democracy

When parliamentary elections were held in Algeria and the fundamentalists won with a considerable majority, believers in democracy considered the outcome terrifying and frightening. They wondered: How could democracy lead to fundamentalism? I believe that the criterion of true democracy are those who believe in its principles, not those who work to bury democracy after they attain power in democracy's wagon. This requires us to look into the reasons that led to the growth of the fundamentalist force in countries such as Algeria and Iran and to find out why fundamentalism is spreading to all parts of the Islamic world.

It is my opinion that one of these reasons is the feeling among Muslims that there is no force capable of protecting Islamic causes. It is enough for us to look at what is happening in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina and at Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to become certain of this. Out of this feeling, radicals have proceeded to raise the slogans of defending Islamic causes and of working to lead the masses on the paths of establishing religious regimes. This approach harbors a major fault whose

dimensions people will discover someday, realizing that fundamentalism is not the answer or the solution. It seems that this discovery has begun to materialize. Here is Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani moving in an endeavor to change the conditions and to restore to Iran its past prosperity as a rich oil country. Of course, I am not saying that Iran was in a better condition under the shah's administration, which wasn't a democratic administration. What I want to say is that the rule of the law, of justice, and of democracy is the appropriate rule for Islamic peoples. Reform can only come through this path. It cannot come by ceding to those who have spurious mentalities and who want to take us years, rather centuries, backward.

Afghanis and Arabs

[AL-HAYAH] What is your opinion of the problem that is worsening daily, namely the problem of the Muslim Arabs who fought in Afghanistan and then moved to Pakistan and who have been the reason for the U.S. administration's accusation of Pakistan of having become a terrorist state?

[Bhutto] There are problems tied to Pakistan and other problems that surpass Pakistan's border. When there was an ongoing war in Afghanistan against the Soviet occupation, the Islamic world viewed that war as an Islamic jihad against the occupiers. This is why many Muslim mujahidun came to participate in the fight with the Afghan people.

Now that that war has ended, these fighters have found themselves looking for new battlefields and new adventures that could be available to them in countries such as Egypt and Algeria. Pakistan has had to shoulder the burden of the use of its territories as a route for the return from Afghanistan to other countries.

I do not think that Pakistan can withstand the cost of being categorized as a country that supports or exports terrorism and of being consequently exposed to a severe international boycott.

I believe that what the Pakistani Government is doing in this regard is a venture whose cost is paid completely by the Pakistani people. This is because the government, which doesn't have popular support, gives these adventurers a "carte blanche" to move, hoping that it will be said that it is fighting for the Islamic faith. Jihad for Islam is not accomplished with these means but by serving the masses and protecting their interests.

The truth is that every ruler with a dictatorial tendency has used religion to entrench his rule, forgetting that this method has always backfired to topple those who use it.

What we actually need is to turn over the controls of preaching the genuine faith to generations of select clergymen who understand the true character of the pure and divine Islam as a message of truth and peace, not as a means of instigation, violence, and destruction, in an age in which all mankind, not just Muslims, has gone to the teachings of apostles and prophets in wake of collapse of the materialism which dominated previously.

Pakistan and India

[AL-HAYAH] A few days ago, you said in response to a question by AL- HAYAH that there is no convincing proof of India's accusation that Pakistan is behind the explosions that have rocked Bombay. A day later, there was an explosion in a Pakistani mosque and India was accused of being behind it. The situation seems to abound with the dangers of a bloody conflict between the two countries. What is required to halt this deterioration?

[Bhutto] The war of mutual accusations is, regrettably, raging between the two countries. I recall that when I was prime minister I met with then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and that we agreed to stop hurling accusations at each other and not to intervene in each other's domestic affairs. This accord contributed to a large degree in alleviating the extreme tension between the two countries.

This accord continued to exist until Gandhi's government was replaced by another government that violated the accord and resumed launching campaigns against us, and we returned to the climate of tension.

The solution to the current crisis is, in my opinion, achieved by having both the Pakistani and Indian governments revive the accord and end the war of accusations. This is not what is being done by the government at a time when conditions are headed for the worse. Religious radicalism in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran has led to stirring religious radicalism in India. If India and Pakistan do not manage to produce leaders capable of combating the radical tendency, I fear that these two countries will be confronted with the dangers of division and disintegration, especially since India has a number of various religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. Therefore, it is subject to severe religious conflicts that cling to action and reaction in a maelstrom that harbors within its folds the dangers of fragmentation and collapse.

If a country like India is exposed to collapse, then this will also threaten Pakistan with collapse.

This is why I believe that it is important for Pakistan to have a leadership reinforced with the people's trust and support and capable of uniting the various popular forces in a single national melting pot where they enjoy their full rights—without the need to use religion for political ends—under the umbrella of a democratic government guided by the true Islamic law.

[AL-HAYAH] How can the fundamentalists be dealt with?

[Bhutto] It is wrong to resort to suppression as a means to deter fundamentalists politically and religiously. Suppression is a dangerous approach. What is better is for

governments to refrain from strengthening and supporting fundamentalists and exploiting their card only to proceed to oppress them when they are needed no longer. Democracy continues to be the solution.

Nuclear Weapon

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view the growing international talk about Pakistan's acquisition of the nuclear weapon?

[Bhutto] I have not yet been able to understand why Pakistan's current foreign minister goes to Washington and states there that Pakistan has a nuclear weapon, not realizing that when we say this the Americans will tell us that this will deny us all kinds of aid and facilities that they offer us.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you actually have a nuclear bomb?

[Bhutto] I do not know if Pakistan has such a weapon. All I know is that Pakistan has the capability and the expertise to manufacture an atomic bomb. But we do not need the bomb today because we know that if we assemble an atomic bomb we will expose ourselves to violating the international law without any pressing security justification. This will subject us to the hostility of the major powers, which is something we are faced with nowadays, to halting the aid we receive from the United States, and to the heightened strain of the major debts and the stifling economic crisis that we are experiencing.

Documents prove that the current Pakistani Government has borrowed more than all the previous governments borrowed collectively since 1947.

Here we are witnessing the ill effects of the economic boycott resolutions against countries such as Libya and Iraq. So how can we march voluntarily toward similar resolutions? Why should we antagonize the western countries and friendly and close countries by violating the international law?

What makes us worry is seeing how Pakistan is tampering with its future and with the fate of its Muslim population.

[AL-HAYAH] What, in your opinion, is the solution to this problem?

[Bhutto] I hope that we in the People's Party will be able to change this situation and this faulty policy in order to bolster Pakistan's independence and its legal and humanitarian international positions and to reaffirm that Pakistan is a strong Islamic country that is open to all, that believes in human rights, democracy, equality, and justice, and that is a good model for other Islamic countries.

[AL-HAYAH] Don't you think that the dangers engulfing Pakistan are enough to make it seek to acquire the nuclear weapon to defend its territories?

[Bhutto] No, I do not agree to this logic. The nuclear weapon will not avert danger from us but will rather be a reason for transforming us into outcasts in the international community.

What we actually need is to act responsibly and legally, and then we will need no extraordinary weapons.

Islam's Image

[AL-HAYAH] How can Islam's image be purged of the impurities which tendentious propaganda tries to attach to this image?

[Bhutto] Today's world does not fear Islam's message, but rather fears the terrorists who hide behind the robes of religion to disseminate terrorism. Islam has nothing to do with terrorism. It is a religion founded on goodness and tolerance, and it does not force anybody to embrace its teachings.

The fact is that the collapse of communism and termination of the cold war have motivated people in the east and the west to return to ethnicities and religions. This is a regrettable condition that prevailed prior to World War I and then World War II and that has returned now with all its violence, force, and terror.

This condition has given Islam's enemies a weapon to use as a justification for isolating Islamic countries. If we do not succeed in purging Islam's image of these impurities, we will find ourselves isolated and the gap between us, as Muslims, and the world will widen. It must be said in this regard that radicalism isn't confined to the Islamic and oriental countries but extends to include the western world which also suffers from radicals.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view international failure in the face of what is going on in the Bosnia-Herzgovina?

[Bhutto] What the Bosnian people, especially Muslim women, are subjected to by the Serbs strengthens the feeling among Muslims that this could not happen in Europe if the women were not Muslims.

What evokes both regret and anger is that this catastrophe persists while the world fails to take any serious action to stop it. I wish I saw greater support for Bosnia's victims by Pakistan and the other Islamic countries so that our honor and the honor of our women would be preserved. It is our duty to protect them. We must also exert all kinds of pressure on our Western allies to make them put an end to this catastrophe with the appropriate means. I am pleased by President Bill Clinton's decision to put this issue at the top of his priorities.

Let me say again that we in the Islamic world must unite to eliminate this disgrace. We have suffered greatly with the feeling of shame and defeat, first in Palestine and now in the Bosnia, with Lebanon in between. It is time for us to move firmly.

Palestine

[AL-HAYAH] What about the peace process and the Palestine issue?

[Bhutto] The issue is difficult and the conflict is complex. This issue made long strides before it was able to compel the Israelis to recognize the Palestinians' rights and to negotiate with them. This significant accomplishment was made after the PLO had made many sacrifices on the path of restoring the usurped right. Today, I am happy with the start of the peace process and with its continuation on the long path toward a solution. The negotiations would not have started if it had not been for the Palestinian people's struggle and for the blood they sacrificed on the right path. I am certain that the negotiations will continue and will succeed with wisdom, logic, and the desire for a peace founded on justice.

Sharif Inaugurates Optic Fiber System

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[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today inaugurated the Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi optic fiber transmission system to begin a revolutionary phase in the socioeconomic development of the country. This system has not only placed Pakistan at par with the developed countries in the field of telecommunications but also can open infinite opportunities for development. Addressing a video conference on the telecommunication system between Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi, the prime minister said a modern telecommunication system had a key position in the overall national development and progress. The optical fiber system had opened new chapters for economic and social development in the country as it would help attract foreign investment. His government had focused its attention on the improvement of the communication systems, which include the construction of the motorway, expansion of the roads, airports, and new ports. The Lahore-Islamabad 339-km long section of the motorway would be completed by April 1995 and the contract for the Peshawar-Islamabad section had also been awarded for its early completion. One branch of the motorway would go to Gwadar and another to Karachi to facilitate the traders and speed up the industrialization in the country. Work on the Indus Highway was also in progress, which would reduce the distance from Karachi to Peshawar by 400 km. Karachi to Towr Kham highway would be made dual carriageway and these projects, costing 82 billion rupees, would bring about a revolution in the country. He said the investment currently made on these projects was leaving a positive effect on the masses but it would be multiplied when these projects would be completed and would attract maximum foreign investment. [passage omitted on remarks of other officials]